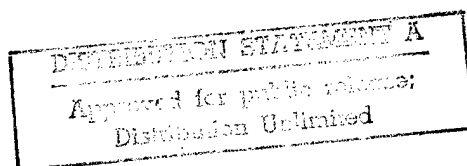


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POLITICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 2196

BULGARIA: GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO
EXPAND RELATIONS WITH EMIGRES

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BULGARIA: GOVERNMENT EFFORTS
TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH EMIGRES

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GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH EMIGRES DESCRIBED

Committee for Bulgarians Abroad Established

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 pp 1-6

[Text] Slavic Committee Renamed the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad

Periodical SLAVYANI Renamed the Periodical RODOLYUBIE

Poet Pavel Matev Elected Chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad

Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad

Message to Bulgarians Abroad

The beautiful autumn day of 7 September 1982 will be long remembered by our compatriots both as a holiday and a working day. What made it a holiday was a ceremonious meeting attended by envoys of Bulgarian colonies in Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America. It was a working day, for during that day the activities of the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria were reviewed and the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad began its work. All of this took place while all the Bulgarian people and our friends throughout the world were celebrating with pride and joy the 38th anniversary of the 9 September victory--the beginning of the all-round upsurge which transformed Bulgaria into a highly developed socialist country.

The meeting was held at the Lyudmila Zhivkova People's Palace of Culture. The presidium members included Pencho Kubatinski, chairman of the Fatherland Front National Council, Georgi Yordanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Committee for Culture, Milena Stamboliyska, Drazha Vulcheva and Ninko Stefanov, deputy chairmen of the National Assembly, Pavel Matev, chairman of the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria, deputy ministers, representatives of social organizations and creative unions, and our compatriots abroad.

The meeting was opened and chaired by Pencho Kubatinski.

Pavel Matev spoke on the activities of the Slavic Committee and on its being renamed the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad (text published separately).

The meeting was also addressed by Docent Boris Kamenov, chairman of the Council of Chairmen of Bulgarian Cultural Clubs in Czechoslovakia, architect Dr Georgi Bonev from Austria, Bishop Arseniy, chief secretary of the Holy Synod, Sergio Yonchev from Argentina, student at the Machine-Electrical Engineering Institute in Sofia, Lili Antonova from the United States, and the public figure Khristo Gonevski (their statements are published separately).

Hero of the Bulgarian People's Republic cosmonaut flier Col Georgi Ivanov read a message to the Bulgarians abroad (published separately).

He was followed by our compatriot from Italy Vuzkresa Kaskavila, who made a motion regarding the new administrative body--the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad (the list of board members published separately).

The meeting was concluded on a highly emotional note: those present sang the famous song with lyrics by Ivan Vazov "Where Is Bulgaria?" ("Do they ask me where the dawn is ..."), which sounded like an anthem of unity between the fatherland and its sons and daughters abroad.

Our compatriots from abroad laid a wreath at the Monument to the Unknown Soldier in Sofia. They visited the monument "Banner of Peace" and the newly opened audiovisual panorama of Bulgarian culture at Festival Hall; on 9 September they watched the holiday demonstration in Sofia.

On the same day the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad gave a holiday luncheon at the Moskva Park-Hotel. During the luncheon the birthdays of our compatriots Georgi Sergiev from West Berlin, Georgi Nikolov from Austria, Negrin Pavlov from Czechoslovakia, Elizabeth Angelinova from the United States and Nikola Dinev from Belgium were celebrated, and gifts were presented to them. Boris Kamenov from Czechoslovakia, Maria Kleymans from Belgium, Georgi Bonev from Austria, Stoyko Dimitrov from Australia and many others expressed their gratitude to the organizers of the 3-day meeting. Tanya Lukash from Austria recited her poems on Bulgaria. Francoise Vampute from Belgium sang the beautiful song "The Falling Leaves." Joy and patriotism were shining in the eyes of all those present, along with sadness at the parting. The fatherland welcomed and sent off with a warm word its sons and daughters living abroad.

Meanwhile, the first session of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad held its first meeting. Stefan Velichkov, for many years a member of the Slavic Committee, nominated the poet Pavel Matev, people's worker in culture, laureate of the Dimitrov Prize, noted public figure and for many years head of the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria, for the chairmanship of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. The motion was unanimously adopted by the members of the Board of Trustees, after which Pavel Matev thanked them for their trust and nominated the active members of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. Bistra Avramova, educator and public figure, daughter of Geo Milev, the great Bulgarian poet, was elected first deputy chairman. Marin Bangiev, a well-known antifascist, one of the organizers of the brigade movement, noted leader during the first years of the people's regime and a public figure and diplomat, was elected deputy chairman. Nikola Vaptsarov,

son of the unforgettable public figure Boris Vaptsarov and nephew of Nikola Vaptsarov, the world-famous Bulgarian poet and hero, was elected general secretary.

On the first item of the agenda, Bistra Avramova read the Regulation of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. Participating in the debates were S. Damyanov, V. Yosifov, Al. Yosifov, L. Antonova, M. Kleymans, Khr. Gonevski, L. Popov, L. Gotsev, T. Kalitsov, St. Dimitrov, B. Kamenov, Khr. Tzavela, V. Draganov, N. Petkov, K. Kuper and M. Litov. They all discussed the opportunities which are open for the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and for cooperation among the various departments and organizations in implementing patriotic ideas and initiatives involving the Bulgarian colonies.

Nikola Vaptsarov, chief secretary of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, presented information on the basic measures to be carried out in 1983 and submitted a plan for the sessions of the Board of Trustees (a summary of the information is published separately).

Marin Bangiev, deputy chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, presented information on the course of the construction of a House of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad (a summary of the information published separately). A resolution was passed on this information (published separately).

The renaming of the Slavic Committee to the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and the periodical SLAVYANI to the periodical RODOLYUBIE marks the conclusion of a historical stage in contacts between the homeland and our compatriots throughout the world. A new stage begins, which is characterized as of now with memorable patriotic initiatives and new ideas, a stage which is defined by the remarkable humanistic loftiness of the foreign and domestic policy of the Bulgarian People's Republic--the prospering fatherland of all Bulgarians throughout the world.

Aims of Committee Described By Matev

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No. 11-12, 1982 pp 1-5

[Text] Dear Comrade Kubadinski:

Dear compatriots;

Comrades:

We are gathered in your elegant People's Palace of Culture to participate in and share responsibility for a special event. This palace was recently named after Lyudmila Zhivkova. This fact unquestionably gives our initiative an even richer meaning, for Lyudmila Zhivkov gave to us her enthusiasm for beauty and perfection and her lofty behest of safeguarding peace--this noble good always desired by mankind, which calls upon us to work tirelessly for the restoration of harmony in relations among people and nations, preserving our cultural and historical heritage and increasing it with the gifts of our



current generations, and making the peoples throughout the world familiar with our national socialist culture which we must steadily enrich with impressive all-human ideas! The aspirations with which Lyudmila Zhivkova lived and died inspire us to new creative accomplishments and give us greater humaneness, wisdom and foresight.

The Slavic Committee in Bulgaria, the noble activities of which had earned the respect of our public and the generous love of our compatriots abroad, will experience today its rebirth. It will adopt a new name and elect a new leadership in order to take up with new strength the implementation of its patriotic objectives and plans.

Precisely 1 year ago, on this same day, on 7 September 1981--how not to believe in beautiful historical recurrences!--representatives of the managements of patriotic organizations of Bulgarians abroad held a work meeting to share views, experience and thoughts related to their work and to discuss how to maintain better ties, live and unbreakable, with the fatherland and the Slavic Committee--the main organization in Bulgaria working for the preservation of the national consciousness of our brothers and sisters taken by the whirlwinds of life away from the homeland. The meeting was held during the rally of Bulgarians abroad, organized by the Slavic Committee with a view to involving our compatriots the world over in the celebration of the 1,300th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian state. The participants in the rally described their trip to our charming Bulgaria as unforgettable. They were repeatedly exposed to Bulgarian hospitality, the amazing beauty of nature in Bulgaria, our memorable history and the bright present of the homeland. Then, returning from this exciting exposure to the holies and

today's glory of their fatherland, some of the members of the rally and the activists in the organizations of Bulgarians abroad met filled with reverence for the bright image of Bulgaria and spontaneously and frankly expressed their wishes, advice and outlines for the future work of the Slavic Committee.

One of the most extensively discussed motions was the idea of the name of the Slavic Committee. Several people stressed that the name "Slavic" was quite broad and did not entirely cover the activities of the committee which works exclusively with people who live abroad but who feel as Bulgarians or who consider themselves of Bulgarian origin. Others discussed attentively and perceptively the lack of clarity and even the confusion which the name creates in their administrations, above all in terms of the ties which the Bulgarian organizations maintain with the Slavic Committee. Others again openly expressed the wish for a better name for the committee, which would clearly indicate that this is an organization the activities of which encourage Bulgarians abroad not to forget their origins but to preserve and save for future generations the worthy name of Bulgaria--their distant homeland which does not forget its attached conscientious children.

Something else was considered as well: the suitable and accurate name of the committee would give the authorities in the countries inhabited by Bulgarians a much clearer idea of the fact that the ties between these Bulgarians and the fatherland encourages friendship and understanding between their peoples and the Bulgarians.

Last year, the question of the name of the Slavic Committee was discussed repeatedly and extensively, from all possible angles. The purpose of the discussion was to hit on a short and clear name which would also agree with the expedient recommendations made by our compatriots abroad. Among the many possible names one stood out as most suitable. It was brief, open, clear and entirely consistent with our work: "Committee for Bulgarians Abroad."

Whenever a social organizations such as ours changes its name, however, it is proper for the action to be public, openly stated, in the presence of at least some of those with whom it works, in this case our compatriots who live abroad, and the mandatory participation of the other organizations and departments related to its activities. Such is precisely the nature of our meeting today, the main purpose of which is to ratify the rechristening of the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria to the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad.

To be perfectly honest, the ratification of this new name has been somewhat delayed, for life had gradually and inevitably introduced into the activities of the Slavic Committee a content quite different from its initial objectives and which dictates to us its other name, i.e., the "Committee for Bulgarians Abroad." The way this change occurred in the work of the committee which appeared first as "Slavic," may be determined from the history of the committee itself for the past 40 years.

The fact that the Bulgarian people are Slavs has never been questioned. We know how the Bulgarian state appeared 13 centuries ago and the way its ethnic

origin was shaped--with the blending of the pre-Bulgarian units and the heirs of the ancient Thracians with the endless Slavic sea. We also know what the old Bulgarian language, which is frequently described outside our country as Church Slavonic, is, and what Bulgaria's mission was in protecting Slavic literacy and the work of the brothers Kiril and Metodiy. Knowing this, we can easily understand why the Bulgarian people, like all Slavic peoples, reacted with anger to the false theories of Hitlerite fascism, according to which the Slavs were the "manure of the pure Aryan race," and were "second-rate," and the claims which were filled with hatred of man and raving chauvinism. The battle against these "theories" could only be part of the struggle against fascist ideology. It was a battle for the exposure of its brutal nature. This struggle called for developing a suitable organizational form to unite the efforts of the Slavic people and to strengthen the pride and self-awareness of the Slavic peoples as the bearers of great spiritual virtues and as people who had made tremendous contributions to world culture. Actually, the tribunal of history not only justifiably punished the fascist criminals but surrounded the image of the Slavs with the unfading halo of victory. The organizational forms through which the Slavic opposition to fascist ideology was manifested were the Slavic committees which were set up in the Slavic countries enslaved by fascist Germany and among some Slavic ethnic emigre communities in America and other continents. The pan-Slavic rally, which convened in 1942 in Moscow, in the capital of the Soviet Union, the great country which bore on its shoulders the heaviest burden in the gigantic struggle against fascism, determined the directions in the activities of the Slavic committees: they were to harness broad public circles in the antifascist resistance under the flag of Slavic solidarity. Considering the difficult political situation in Bulgaria during World War II, we could not set up a Slavic committee. However, the ideas which inspired the Slavic committees in the other countries were also those of our entire antifascist resistance headed by the BCP and Fatherland Front, while the Bulgarian people marched precisely for the sake of these ideas and struggled for them heroically and with self-sacrifice.

The Slavic Committee in Bulgaria was created immediately after the victory of the 9 September socialist revolution. Its task was to become the promoter and assistant in the ideological work of the people's regime for eliminating all vestiges of the monarcho-fascist outlook from the minds of individual members of our society and to unify all efforts for the final defeat of fascism in Europe, as well as to work for strengthening the fraternal ties with the Slavic people and for friendship and cooperation with all nations on earth.

The stupid fabrications as to the second-rate nature of the Slavic people crumbled with the unconditional military defeat of German fascism, the debunking of its anti-people's policy and the exposure of its crimes against mankind. This fact led many countries to the consideration that the Slavic committees had achieved their objectives, and they gradually dissolved.

However, as all of us know, the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria is still extant and is developing rich and varied activities. The explanation of this lies in the fact that even before it was established it existed as a spiritual motif, as an idea and a movement inseparable from the people's antifascist struggle and in the course of their ceaseless aspiration toward a new people's

regime. Even after the regime was established, the Slavic Committee continued the tradition of unbreakable ties with the vital problems of our time, which called for a broader interpretation of its basic assignments. That is precisely why it gained prestige both in the country and--logically--among our compatriots who had found themselves abroad for various reasons and had reached foreign countries in different ways during the tempestuous decades which preceded our great event--9 September 1944. Throughout its existence the Slavic Committee had its inspired workers and numerous supporters, who guided its work toward strengthening the power of the Fatherland Front, realizing the significance of the Bulgarian-Soviet friendship "needed by our people like the sun and the air are needed by any living being," as the great Georgi Dimitrov taught us; toward friendship and cooperation with the peoples of the socialist countries; toward creating conditions for good neighborly relations, respect and trust among the Balkan peoples; toward active participation in the struggle for the preservation of peace--the most important prerequisite for the development of all nations on the path to social progress; toward maintaining ties with our compatriots abroad, who love their homeland and respect its socialist present.



Stefan Velichkov nominates Pavel Matev chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad



Bistra Avramova reads the draft committee regulations



Marin Banatsev reports on the construction of the committee's home



Nikola Vaptsarov announces the work of the Board of Trustees

However, our new society is incredibly dynamic and it was this dynamism that demanded that the various social organizations concentrate on sectors most directly related to their work and which called for a clearer definition of their tasks, with a differentiation and specialization which helped to avoid duplication in their activities and work more extensively in the area of their specific problems. At the beginning of the 1960s work with Bulgarian colonies abroad--quite a serious, important and complex matter--which fully justified the existence of a public organization to deal entirely and exclusively with it, was one such typical problem characteristic of the Slavic Committee. It was precisely in this sense that the tasks of the Slavic Committee were firmly refined and that for the past 20 years it has maintained relations with thousands of our compatriots abroad, helping them to enrich the activities of their societies, clubs, publications, amateur art groups, and Bulgarian language studies by the young generations, sending them information on the homeland and informing them of the processes which are developing in our society, thus encouraging and keeping alive their national dignity and love for Bulgaria.

Such is, briefly, the history of the Slavic Committee. Today we would like to say good-bye not to its history, with its victories and memories. We would like to have it reborn, renaming it the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. This new name entails obligations. Furthermore, the changed circumstances urgently demand of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, while retaining everything valuable from the history, experience and traditions of the Slavic Committee, to develop the type of activities which will be richer in terms of content, psychologically deeper and consistent with the reality in which our compatriots live abroad, and act more efficiently in terms of strengthening and consolidating their ties with the homeland and encouraging their participation in the peaceful policy of our country, the expansion of their cooperation in ensuring an even more lively cultural exchange and fruitful contacts in all fields of life between Bulgaria and the countries in which they live. The Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will help and facilitate even more actively our compatriots in the various countries in setting up their own clubs, societies and countrymen's associations, for any form of collective social life is an arena of the Bulgarian spirit which should not wither away abroad but continue to warm forever the hearts with the sacred warmth of the homeland. One of its wellheads--the Bulgarian language--should continue to be heard as charming and sweet as it is to us and has been for many, many generations. The Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will send to our compatriots an even larger number of and more systematically various publications, albums, photographic materials, gramophone records and recordings of Bulgarian music, films, journalistic materials, folklore objects and souvenirs which will be symbols of folk customs and traditions in every home inhabited by people who feel they are Bulgarian. This will strengthen their resolve to see their old native hearth in which new, brighter and warmer fire burns. The Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will dedicate even more systematic concern for the preservation of the national consciousness in the young Bulgarian generation born abroad and acquaint them with the great history and contemporary accomplishments of the people from whom their fathers and grandfathers came. It will contribute to the efforts to preserve in them the pure image of Bulgaria so that the poisonous seeds of anti-Bulgarian propaganda may not germinate in their minds.

As a social organization, the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will be managed by an elected administrative body which, in addition to the members of the active management of the committee, will include representatives of Bulgarian patriotic organizations abroad, representatives of Bulgarian social organizations and departments related to the work of the committee, and noted social and cultural personalities. As recommended at the working meeting with activists in organizations of Bulgarians abroad, which I mentioned, this social administrative body of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will be known as the Board of Trustees--a title which will remind us of the reading room, school and church managements during the Renaissance. This title is not a historical recollection. It is applied to this day by some organizations. Recently the school boards were restored as well as a social means of combining the efforts of parents and the public in the area of education. We believe that this elected administrative body of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad can be described with full justification as a board of trustees. This, we hope, will be accepted both by our compatriots abroad and the Bulgarian public at large.

The Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will adopt long-term programs, annual plans and committee reports. It will discuss basic problems and more important initiatives organized jointly with Bulgarians abroad.

It would be logical for the first task of the Board of Trustees, which will be elected today, to be the adoption of a regulation on the structure and the work of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. The draft regulation, which will be submitted to the board, stipulates that the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad is an autonomous juridical person whose activities are the following: cultural-educational work among the Bulgarian colonies abroad with a view to maintaining and strengthening the national consciousness of our compatriots and their ties with the homeland; assisting the activities of organized patriotic associations of Bulgarians abroad; informing the colonies of the development of modern Bulgaria in the fields of economics, culture, social policy and foreign political activities aimed at strengthening peace, cooperation and friendship with all nations on earth. The draft regulation of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad stipulates that the Board of Trustees will be elected at a public meeting and for a 5-year term. The day-to-day practical work of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will be directed by the management, which would include the committee chairmen, the deputy chairmen and the chief secretary. A small number of specialists will be appointed on the basis of the territorial-functional principle as well as the necessary technical and servicing personnel to pursue the direction stipulated by the Board of Trustees.

As you know, our compatriots acquire most regular information on contemporary Bulgaria through the periodical SLAVYANI--the committee's monthly publication. The periodical, like the Slavic Committee, is already 37 years old. It has its regular subscribers and readers all over the earth. They have repeatedly expressed their satisfaction with its content and presentation. The title of the periodical is liked by the Bulgarian colony. The reasons which explain the renaming of the Slavic Committee to the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad,

however, equally applied to the title SLAVYANI. The suitable time has come to part with this name. A number of suggestions were submitted on the name of the monthly organ of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. However, the most numerous and best-substantiated considerations were expressed in favor of the title RODOLYUBIE. Therefore, as of Issue No 1 for 1983 the periodical SLAVYANI, without changing its essential ideological and artistic features, will be renamed RODOLYUBIE. I believe that we should express our gratitude to those who contributed to this sonorous, meaningful and age-old Bulgarian name for our periodical. Patriotism [rodolyubie] is a source of daring, valor and most pure aspirations. Patriotism--realized and experienced--cannot fail to appreciate what is good in other nations. It cannot fail to display our humanism and reverence for the all-human ideals of peace and respect for and friendship among nations.

In adopting its new name RODOLYUBIE, our periodical and its editors will make efforts to make it even richer in terms of topics, more interesting in terms of journalistic and art presentations, more refined in terms of its printing. As the publication of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, the periodical RODOLYUBIE will also contribute through the power of the printed word to the preservation and support of the Bulgarian national consciousness among our compatriots abroad and to preserve a living remembrance, particularly among the young generation, of the roots of its parents and unfading love for Bulgaria and its past and present. The periodical will support the Bulgarian colony as a bridge of friendship, as a link contributing to the comprehensive development of relations between our country and the respective foreign country. It will provide systematic and aggressive rebuttal to all selfish efforts aimed at depriving the Bulgarian people of their history and cultural heritage or the denationalization of the Bulgarian colony in a nonsocialist country.

Comrades and dear compatriots:

Recently, Comrade Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the Bulgarian People's Republic State Council, made a meaningful speech at the 14th Congress of the Dimitrov Komsomol. Among others, he said: "Each one of the generations which, in their totality constitute today the Bulgarian people, has its place and plays its role and makes its contribution to the life, labor and struggle of the people.... The common ideas and ideals and common toil for the sake of the common objective and the great fate of socialist Bulgaria are the foundations for the unity of generations and their continuity in the tempestuous current of time. That is what ensures the immortality of our people and their cherished cause."

Sufficient good grounds exist for accepting the fact that the words of Comrade Zhivkov on the unity of generations and their common toil for the sake of the immortality of the homeland and its ceaseless upsurge also apply to our compatriots abroad. That is why the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad deems it its supreme purpose to attract all generations of Bulgarians who live away from the homeland to share the noble ideals for the sake of which the people of today's Bulgaria work and live; the active involvement of our compatriots in support of the steadfast policy pursued by our state for peace

and detente; seeking their involvement with Bulgaria's efforts to create an atmosphere of calm and trust, which is a prerequisite for the spiritual and economic exchange among nations the world over. The Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will reach this objective by keeping in constant touch with our compatriots abroad, responding to their wish to live with the joys and problems of their people and to help as they can the common cause of developing

Bulgaria as an advanced cultural country, secure in its future. The committee will maintain the closest possible relations with all types of Bulgarian organizations abroad. It will coordinate its initiatives with them and will help them to develop even richer patriotic activities. Naturally, the committee will be in systematic contact with Bulgarian departments and organizations working among the Bulgarian colonies abroad, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Committee for Culture, the Committee on Problems of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and Religious Cults, the Ministry of Public Education, the creative unions, the Fatherland Front, the Komsomol and all social organizations which contribute to a larger or lesser extent to helping every one of our patriots abroad feel that he has a homeland of which he can be proud, which will always give him a helping hand should he need it and which will always gratefully accept his contribution to the nationwide cause of building the bright future of Bulgaria. It is thus, through joint efforts and common understanding and patriotic upsurge, that we shall implement the call included in the appeal to the Bulgarian people on the occasion of the 1,300th anniversary of our state: "Sons and daughters of the homeland, scattered among all continents, in whose hearts floods patriotic Bulgarian blood! Remember and love your fatherland! Be proud of your origin, the heroic history of your people and your quality of Bulgarians! Love reborn socialist Bulgaria and support its comprehensive upsurge!"





The newly elected leadership of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad

Speeches Delivered at Meeting

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No: 11-12, 1982 pp 6, 7

[Text] Docent Boris Kamenov, Chairman of the Council of Chairmen of Bulgarian Cultural Clubs in Czechoslovakia

Dear Comrade Kubadinski and dear compatriots: Allow me first of all to present warm greetings to the leadership of the Slavic Committee and, through it, to our state and party leaders, on behalf of the Bulgarian Cultural Clubs in Czechoslovakia, named after Georgi Dimitrov.

We expect and are convinced that the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will continue the strong conditions and ties, will make use of the experience of the Slavic Committee and will broaden the possibilities of maintaining ties with our compatriots throughout the globe. I would like to discuss a specific aspect of the structure and lines of work of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, namely the creation of the Board of Trustees. It includes the participation of our compatriots living in different countries, which creates opportunities for maintaining direct ties with and integrating the operative management of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and the local organizations. Unquestionably, this structure will help to strengthen our ties with the homeland and will contribute to enhancing the feelings of patriotism, gratitude and belonging of our and subsequent generations and Bulgarians who live in various parts of the world. This is a suitable moment to express our great gratitude for the concern shown by our state leaders and the management of the Slavic Committee to maintain spiritual and cultural ties with our fellow citizens living in various countries. I would also like to emphasize the great role played by our homeland, which is waving high the banner of peace



Docent Boris Kamenov

during this difficult time in international relations. As citizens we are concerned and worried by some dangerous aspects of today's international relations, when a single thoughtless action could lead to the end and the destruction of that which the nations have created. That is precisely why the words and some of the tasks set on developing friendship among nations, friendship and constructive toil, sound even more strongly.

Finally, allow me to express our readiness to work with all our forces for the success and implementation of the tasks which the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad has set itself.

Dr Georgi Bonev, Austria

Dear compatriots, who have come from all ends of the world in response to the call of the homeland and your own Bulgarian blood. The homeland is the country of our childhood. It is the place where we have spent the best years of our lives and where our blood and memories will always take us. Allow me to use the words of a great Austrian writer who said that "do not sorrow for what is taken away from you. It is lost forever. It is only that which you give voluntarily, which comes from your heart, that you sometimes get back." Such is precisely our task--to give to Bulgaria, to mother Bulgaria, wherever we may be, scattered throughout the world, whatever we can, and perform our filial duty.



Dr Georgi Bonev

Please do not consider as self-aggrandizement the few words I would like to say about my activities. I have taught Bulgarian language in Vienna for the past 22 years. I am a graduate in architecture but I am also a lecturer in Bulgarian language. As a person whose native tongue is Bulgarian I participated in compiling and translating an "Anthology of Contemporary Bulgarian Poetry." I worked hard, for the language into which I translated was not my native tongue. Nevertheless, we were able to create a decent, a good book, and present our poetry to the foreign world. This means that every one of us

should do his filial duty to Bulgaria as best he can. Let this love inspire us, let us put it behind our ear like a geranium, let us hold it on our chest like a rose from Kazanluk, this love we feel for mother Bulgaria.

Bishop Arseniy, Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod

Honorable assembly, dear compatriots from abroad, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you on behalf of His Holiness the Bulgarian Patriarch Maksim and the Holy Synod and to wish you fruitful work. The Bulgarian Orthodox Church highly values the activities of the Slavic Committee in Bulgaria, which will become as of today the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. Its objectives are patriotic and its activities are highly noble. One of its tasks is to maintain live and active ties with our compatriots living outside our dear homeland. The Bulgarian Orthodox Church, which is using all means at its disposal actively to assist the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and for the efficient implementation of its tasks, accounts for a substantial share of such noble activities. Along with educational clubs, societies and countrymen's associations, which rally our compatriots in various countries, the churches and church communities are also the focal points which attract and



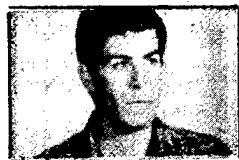
Bishop Arseniy

unite our compatriots abroad, wherever they exist. The church management, together with the priests and the prelates in parishes abroad are doing everything possible to promote the sound of Bulgarian speech and to spread the glory of our 13 centuries-old dear socialist Bulgaria, so that the splendid folk songs, dances, folk customs and bright folk costumes remain alive, so that the ties with and love for our dear homeland, the Bulgarian People's Republic, and its peaceful and industrious people, the offspring of which all of us are, may not be forgotten. I warmly wish the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad great success in its highly noble activities and the united Bulgarian societies abroad to light up the ever-brighter torches of their patriotism and, in the words of the venerable Paisiy Khilendarski, to remember their kin and their language!

Sergio Yonchev, Student at the Machine-Electrical Engineering Institute,
Sofia

Dear Mr Chairman and compatriots. I was born in Argentina in Chaco Province, in a Bulgarian family. We have always spoken about Bulgaria in our home, about its great history and our cultural heritage, the successes of the Bulgarian People's Republic and our people's traditions and customs. This made me love Bulgaria before I had even seen it. Although the influence of Latin American culture is quite strong, the Bulgarians in Chaco have

preserved and supported their language, culture and traditions through various activities, such as Bulgarian language courses and Bulgarian folklore groups. Virtually all Bulgarians in Argentina are in touch with the homeland through the help of the Slavic Committee. Every month we impatiently await the periodical SLAVYANI, which to us is a window to the homeland. Everything we receive from Bulgaria is precious to us.



Sergio Yonchev

However, the concern of the Slavic Committee is not limited to this. Dozens of sons and daughters of Bulgarians abroad attend Bulgarian schools with Slavic Committee scholarships. For the past year I have attended the V. I. Lenin Machine-Electrical Engineering Institute in Sofia. The excellent opportunities and conditions which Bulgaria offers us enables us to acquire excellent training, to become good specialists and, after returning to our respective countries, to spread the glory of Bulgarian science. We pledge to devote all efforts to become truly good specialists, thus justifying the trust and the cost of our education. I wish with all my heart the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad success in its highly patriotic and noble activities.

Khristo Gonevski, Public Figure

There is very little left for me to say after Pavel Matev's speech. I would like to make some recommendations. The Committee for Bulgarians Abroad should do everything possible to be in touch with all Bulgarians who live outside our homeland, for many of our compatriots in some countries are still isolated. Through its activities, the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad should support and strengthen the patriotic spirit of Bulgarians abroad and that of their children and grandchildren. It should promote in them a feeling of love for the homeland of their fathers, so that they may become good friends of Bulgaria. The Committee for Bulgarians Abroad should maintain close ties with the existing societies, church boards and all types of Bulgarian associations abroad and be concerned with the creation of such societies wherever Bulgarians live. The periodical RODOLYUBIE should extensively reflect in its materials the life and activities of our compatriots and support their patriotic feelings by publishing materials on the heroic history of the Bulgarian people and the spiritual and material accomplishments of contemporary Bulgaria.



Khristo Gonevski

Finally, I would like to express the following opinion: for quite some time there has been talk of writing a "History of Bulgarian Emigres." There is a great deal of material related to such present and current activities. I recommend that this idea be taken up.

Appeal to Bulgarians Abroad

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 7

Dear compatriots:

On 7 September 1982 an inauguration assembly was held in Sofia, attended by emissaries of the Bulgarian communities in Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. At the assembly, the Slavic Committee was renamed the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and the SLAVYANI magazine was given a new name-- RODOLYUBIE.

The past activities of our committee and our magazine will leave an indelible trace on the historical national consciousness of the Bulgarians living in all parts of the world as a lasting testimony of the unbreakable link between mother Bulgaria and her children wherever they live.

For the sake of this very bond, both tender and sincere, both uplifting and exalting, the committee and the magazine should be reborn by taking on new names, new leaderships and new potentials. These are indispensable to the implementation of the unchanging patriotic goals and endeavors which are also a concern for the Bulgarians all over the world, a way to preserve the undying Bulgarian awareness and a way to put forward the imperatives of today for a peaceful, equal and prudent interrelation with countries that have generously granted our compatriots the opportunity to earn a living and find shelter.

In times of hardship and crucial turns of fortune tens of thousands of Bulgarians have been driven out of the motherland, but the motherland lives forever in the human soul, where it spreads unimpaired under its true sky and over its true shores. It is to you, upholders of the fatherland, that the appeal is being addressed.

Dear compatriots.

A Bulgarian is anyone whose tough roots have sprung in the glittering snow-bound Balkan ridges, in the glimmer of the Danube River and the Black Sea, in the lightning flashes of the Pirin and the Rodopa Mountains, in the soft shadows of the Strandzha, in the black earth fallows of Thrace and Dobrudzha, in the sunlit riverbeds of Maritsa and Struma.

A Bulgarian is anyone whose ancestry traces back to the slightest blood bondage with the people, who gave birth to Cyril and Methodius, to Paisiy of Hilendarski and Sofroni Vrachanski, Vasil Levski and Khristo Botev, to Captain Petko Voevoda and Gotse Delchev, to Dimitur Blagoev and Georgi Dimitrov.

A Bulgarian is anyone who though far away from the motherland manages to inculcate into the mentality of other peoples the basic Bulgarian virtues of striving for peace, friendship and collaboration; a Bulgarian is anyone who contributes to the domains of labor, science and culture for the benefit of all mankind!

A Bulgarian is anyone who has gotten support and protection from Bulgaria, who has gotten from it a kindling spark for his fireplace and a rocking cradle for his children!

A Bulgarian is anyone who has fought for our freedom and our just cause and his sons and daughters are worthy of our gratitude.

Let mother Bulgaria know that her children all over the world are hard-working and friendly, that they are promoters of progress and humane ideals, noble builders of the world they live in.

Let the Bulgarians from all over the planet know they have a motherland they can be proud of, a motherland that is always willing to accept any contribution to our common cause with recognition, that is devoted to the building of the prosperous future of Bulgaria! Let them know that both their present and their future generations do have a motherland, born out of unfathomable historical depths whose eternity is a definite promise of boundless horizons of the future.

Dear compatriots, set yourselves to work with patriotic impulses in your soul, with the sparkle of the motherland in your eyes, with the pulse of our ancient people in your hearts, set yourselves to work in the name of Bulgaria, in the name of mankind, in the name of peace and social progress!

Sofia, 7 September 1982

From the Assembly

List of Committee Board of Trustees

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No: 11-12, 1982 pp 10, 79-80

[Text] Chairman: People's Worker in Culture Pavel Matev, poet, chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad

Members:

1. Honored artist Aleksandur Yosifov, composer, Balkanton director;
2. Aleksandur Dospevski, chairman, Attorneys' Bureau for Work Abroad and With Foreigners of the TsSA [Central Council of Lawyers];
3. Academician Angel Balevski, BAN [Bulgarian Academy of Sciences] chairman, member of the Bulgarian People's Republic State Council;

4. Angel Tsvetkov, deputy chairman of the National Council of the Fatherland Front;
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7. Honored Worker in Culture Bistra Avramova, first deputy chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad;
8. Docent Boris Kamenov, chairman of the Council of the Chairmen of Bulgarian Cultural Clubs in Czechoslovakia;
9. Engineer Vasil Draganov, chairman of the Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Association in Vienna, Austria;
10. Honored Worker in Culture Veselin Yosifov, chairman of the Union of Bulgarian Journalists;
11. Veneta Ilieva, manager of the Bulgarian Radio and Television Hour in Toronto, Canada;
12. Vuzkresa Kaskavila, chairman of the N. Y. Vaptsarov section of the Bulgarian Society in Turin, Italy;
13. Hero of Socialist Labor Georgi Pirinski, long-time activist in the Bulgarian colony in the United States;
14. Hero of the Bulgarian People's Republic and Hero of the USSR Col Georgi Ivanov, flier-cosmonaut of the Bulgarian People's Republic and the USSR;
15. Hero of Socialist Labor Academician Dechko Uzunov, painter;
16. Honored Worker in Culture Yordan Radichkov, writer;
17. Kalinka Kuper, chairman of the Ivan Vazov German-Bulgarian Society in Essen, FRG;
18. Candidate of Philosophical Sciences Lilyana Andreeva, scientific associate at the Institute of Contemporary Social Theories of the BAN Presidium;
19. Lili Antonova, head of the Bulgarian television program in New York, United States;
20. People's Worker in Culture Lyubomir Levchev, poet, chairman of the Union of Bulgarian Writers;
21. Lyuben Gotsev, deputy minister of foreign affairs;

22. People's actor Lyubomir Kabakchiev, chairman of the Union of Actors in Bulgaria;
23. Lyuben Popov, chairman of the Committee for Church Problems;
24. Marin Bangiev, deputy chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad;
25. Mariya Kleymans, chairman of the P. K. Yavorov Bulgarian Language Society in Belgium;
26. Honored Worker in Culture Milen Marinov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Culture;
27. Milan Antonov, jurist, Gotse Delchev's nephew;
28. Milena Stamboliyska, member of the BZNS [Bulgarian Agrarian National Union] Standing Committee and deputy chairman of the National Assembly;
29. Retired Gen Miron Litov, public figure;
30. Prof Mikhail Savov, deputy minister of public education;
31. Nedyalko Petkov, general director of the "Thirteen Centuries of Bulgaria" Foundation;
32. Architect Nikola Vaptsarov, chief secretary of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad;
33. Nikola Indzhov, writer, editor in chief of the periodical RODOLYUBIE;
34. People's Worker in Culture Nikolay Khaytov, writer;
35. Stara Zagora Metropolitan Pankratiy;
36. Dr Platon Tabakov, chairman of the Otets Paisiy Cultural-Educational Society in Stockholm, Sweden;
37. Rumen Popov, director, Radio Sofia Foreign Broadcasts Directorate;
38. Stoyko Dimitrov, activist in the Bulgarian colony in Brisbane, Australia;
39. Stefan Velichkov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad;
40. Stefan Tikhchev, director general of the Committee for Television and Radio;
41. Stefan Radnev, first deputy general director of the Sofia Press Agency;
42. Prof Simeon Damyanov, head of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute of History Center for Demographic Studies;

43. Candidate of Historical Sciences Stoyan Radev, BAN Institute of Bulgarian Studies deputy director;
44. Stoyan Radoslavov, deputy head, consular department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
45. Todor Nanov, first deputy chairman, State Committee for Tourism;
46. Todor Kalitsov, secretary of the G. Dimitrov Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Society in Budapest, Hungary;
47. Todor Netsov, chief of the consular department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
48. Petur Ivanov, chairman of the Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Society in Berisso, Argentina;
49. Honored Worker in Culture Khristo Gonevski, long-time activist in the Bulgarian colony in Argentina;
50. Khristofor Tzavela, collector of folk songs and folk tales;
51. Tsvetan Stanimirov, chief of the Organization-Propaganda Department, Committee for Bulgarians Abroad.

Information on the Basic Measures To Be Implemented By the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad in 1983

The leadership of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad deems it expedient to hold annual meetings-dialogues with Bulgarians living abroad and with Bulgarian partners, such as members of business circles, physicians, chemists, engineers, architects, and men of art and culture.

The first meeting-dialogue will be held jointly with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad during the period of the spring Plovdiv Fair.

The 80th anniversary of the Ilinden-Preobrazhensko uprising will be celebrated in 1983 by the entire Bulgarian people.

Two meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will be held.

The 1983 plan of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad will stipulate measures aimed at improving work with students--children of compatriots abroad, who are attending Bulgarian higher educational institutions with scholarships granted by the committee and children spending their summers in Bulgarian Pioneer camps. New textbooks and school aids will be drafted for Bulgarian language courses for the Bulgarian cultural-educational societies, clubs and church communities. Measures will be taken to ensure the even closer interaction and improvement of joint work with the Committee for Culture,

Committee for Television and Radio, Committee for the Bulgarian Women's Movement and State Committee for Tourism.

Information on the Course of the Construction of a House for the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad

Dear members of the newly elected Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad:

It is well-known that the Bulgarian People's Republic has pursued and is pursuing steadfastly a principle-minded and consistent policy of peace and peaceful cooperation with the neighboring Balkan states and all countries in the world. The results of this policy are obvious: the power of our homeland is strengthening with every passing year and its international recognition and reputation are growing.

The attitude toward our compatriots living abroad, who are loyal to new socialist Bulgaria and who have revered and revere their fatherland, and the agreement of the people's government that a house for the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad be built during the current five-year plan in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, are clear confirmations of this policy. This house, in accordance with the ideas and wishes of all of us, must and will be a memorial house, a house symbolic of the patriotism of all Bulgarians, of all our compatriots abroad, who have lived, live and will live in those countries, but who have never ceased nor will ever cease to feel that they are the daughters and sons of our ancient and renewed homeland--the Bulgarian People's Republic.

As we know, in connection with the celebration of the 1,300th anniversary of the foundation of the Bulgarian state, on the initiative of the Bulgarian colony in Austria, a voluntary "Construction of a House for the Slavic Committee" was set up. We also know that this voluntary fund was welcomed and warmly supported by our compatriots living in other countries as well. The broad publicity and popularity of this highly patriotic initiative of the Bulgarian colony in Austria contributed to the substantial patriotic energizing among our compatriots abroad. Many of them suggested that the construction of the house be accelerated and, in this connection, expressed their readiness to participate in it with bigger donations. After discussing these and similar suggestions, we reached the conclusion that it would be expedient to speed up the construction of our house. This would energize the Bulgarians abroad even further and would play a considerable role in upgrading the patriotic feelings of our compatriots and their cohesion and unification on a patriotic Bulgarian basis.

However, speeding up the building of the house required securing its financing on time and the voluntary fund for the building of the home, which was received by our compatriots, was still below the cost estimates. An advance had to be secured to finance the construction if it was to be undertaken.

Proceeding from the expediency of accelerating the construction of the house, the management of the Slavic Committee appealed for cooperation and assistance to the administrative council of the Thirteen Centuries of Bulgaria

Foundation and the Sofia People's Council executive committee. The administrative council of the foundation and the executive committee of the Sofia City Council showed great understanding of the problem in a spirit of a lofty and patriotic attitude toward our compatriots abroad and not only agreed but within a short time resolved positively the questions we had raised. At the present time we have a building site on Bulgaria Boulevard, the largest boulevard in the capital, and secured advance financing for the construction of the house. This means that our common desire, above all that of our compatriots abroad, to have our own home in the capital has been resolved in its essential features.

The idea of building a house for the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad should be made familiar to all Bulgarians abroad, old and young, who still are burning with the Bulgarian flame or, wherever it has diminished, should be reignited. We must and will act in such a way that the readiness of our compatriots to participate in the construction of the house be expressed not only in terms of monetary donations but in other material ways as well. Various specifications remain to be made for the materials needed by the house such as the woodwork, heating, glass paneling, light, porcelain, elevators, mockups, furnishing of individual premises, and so on, specifications of which will be submitted to our various clubs and societies and individual compatriots for discussion and response. This will enable individuals, communities, clubs, companies and groups of compatriots to assist in this construction according to their abilities.

As to memorializing the implementation of this patriotic initiative, we deem it proper and necessary for a plaque to be placed in front of the house, in which the names of all those who have participated in the construction will be entered. In this connection, we are planning to sculpt the busts of individuals who have made larger donations, exhibit the portraits of others, and name special halls, areas, etc. for still others. This will make the house a true house-memorial, a symbol of the patriotism of Bulgarians abroad. Whenever any compatriot of ours, wherever he may live, comes to visit, he will find and should find his true home, and true Bulgarian hospitality.

Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad,
Passed at Its First Session on 8 September 1982

Having heard the information presented by Marin Bangiev, deputy chairman of the committee, on preparations for the construction of a house for the committee, the Board of Trustees

Resolves:

1. The building of a house for the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad with funds contributed by our compatriots abroad is a highly patriotic and voluntary obligation assumed by the entire Bulgarian colony.
2. The voluntary funding for the "Construction of a House for the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad," set up on the initiative of the Bulgarian colony in Austria, will continue and will be considered one of the most patriotic tasks of our entire colony.

Members of Editorial Board of SLAVYANI

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 11

[Text] SLAVYANI

Periodical of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, Founded in 1945

November-December 1982

Front cover:

Meetings among friends;

Visit to the Monument to the Unknown Soldier;

The Bulgarian folk dance is not forgotten;

Souvenir photograph;

Center: With flowers and the emotion of the encounter.

Editor in chief: Nikola Indzhov.

Editorial counsel: Bistra Avramova, first deputy chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad; Sonya Bakish, political journalist; Sasha Berberova, deputy editor in chief; Nikola Vaptsarov, chief secretary of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad; Georgi Velez, painter; Khristo Gonevski, public figure; Dimitur Dimitrov, member of the BZNS Standing Committee; Ilcho Dimitrov, historian; Academician Petur Dinekov, director of the BAN Ethnographic Institute; Nikola Zakhariev, political journalist; Tikhomir Zarev, political journalist; Milen Marinov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Culture; Petur Nyagolov, responsible secretary; Stara Zagora Metropolitan Pankratiy; Georgi Pirinski, public figure; Serafim Severnyak, writer; Marko Semov, political journalist; Nikolay Khaytov, writer.

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'Visit to Bulgarians in Brazil

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 30

[Article by Petur Gerasimov]

[Text] Even a brief encounter with Brazil leaves memories, multicolored like a carnival in disguise, memories of a huge territory with the breath of the tropics, the stormy and tireless southern city of Rio de Janeiro and the skyscrapers of Sao Paulo; memories of the capital with the outline of an airplane, planned with large bold lines by the great talent Oscar Nimeyer.

After this carnival march of memories, I single out carefully the faces of my compatriots with whom I had the opportunity to meet in this distant southern-soft and endearing country which the locals (and who knows why?) have named Brazil, a word which sounds hard like a diamond. These are the faces of Bulgarians, men and women who, despite the time that has passed and the tremendous distance, have been able to retain this indescribable yet typical Bulgarian charm, the uniqueness of the gesture and expression which betray the person who is still thirsty for the legendary water of the Vitosha, the steep and flowery meadows of the Pirin or the Dobrudzha Plains.

Naturally, life in this territorially huge Latin American country has left its mark on the daily existence of our compatriots. These are natural changes which have affected even their names: Petur Terziev, for example, who left Bulgaria in 1926, changed his name to Pedro Tersi. However, a Bulgarian soul resides behind the modified Brazilian name. This elderly person spoke of the celebrations of Saint George's Day and Babin Day, the folk dance performed to the point of exhaustion under the large southern stars of Brazil. He told me that in a Sao Paulo district about 100 families of Dobrudzha settlers lived--a "Bulgarian" island in this huge country, a large community of people of different ages, education and sex but who preserve folk customs and traditions with equal strength and concern. I am convinced that this love for the Bulgarian roots is also alive in the children of Petur Terziev, in his daughters Vera, Elena and Mariya, and in his son Anton. "My son left us, he now lives in Santos," Petur said. "What can we do, the children grow up and take off..."

I had wanted to go to Santos as well, to talk with Anton Tersi, the descendant of the strong Bulgarian Petur. However, the few days I spent in Brasilia were absorbed by interesting meetings with engineer Gancho Tabakov, one of the largest industrialists in Sao Paulo, Eduard Khugasyan, who is in love with his native Sofia, and is a noted expert in exports and imports, and the noted film producer Jean Zaidner and his kind wife Magdalena, who received me in a Bulgarian folk room in their house; many hours passed in telephone conversations and in looking for the architect Georgi Sirakov, one of the builders of Brasilia, the capital, and the noted Rio de Janeiro medical specialist Dr Nestorov.

Santos, the city of the famous soccer ace Pele, will remain strangely linked in my mind to the traditional Bulgarian hospitality and kindness: we were getting ready to fly out of Brasilia, when the telephone rang: "Where are you, brother Bulgarians, come to see me in Santos, I am already laying out the table!" It was Dr Georgiev, who had found out that journalists from Sofia had come to Sao Paulo. The plane was taking off in 1 hour and we could not even hesitate. All we could do was thank him pleasantly for this dear and unexpected invitation.

This instantaneous "telephone" touch with the warmth of this Dr Georgiev, unknown to me, confirms another journalistic conclusion from my contacts with compatriots in Brasilia: although Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are cities with populations of many millions, and although every person is involved with his work and concerns, the members of the Bulgarian ethnic community in this distant Latin American country always find the time to keep in touch and to keep active and alive this invisible atmosphere of Bulgarianism. Naturally, these contacts are focused on their interest in the old country, in Bulgaria. "The first words with which we welcome every new guest are 'How is Bulgaria? Has thus-and-such a street or square in Sofia, Plovdiv or Varna changed?...' " shared with us M. Aladzhem, a lawyer and publisher.

It is precisely this unabating interest in the homeland, in anything Bulgarian, this ineradicable feeling of belonging to that faraway territory of the lion and the tricolor, that may be the most typical feature of the compatriots I met in Brasilia. These are people who live under the southern skies of Brazil but keep deep within their hearts the image of Bulgaria.

Profile of Lady Living in Germany

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 47

[Text] Suffice it merely to mention the name of Zakharinka Zakhari Stoyanova and the feeling that we are leafing through pages of the Bulgarian renaissance history is with us. The spirit of two large Bulgarian families whom we revere and of whom we are proud lives in this 92-year-old Bulgarian woman. The one side is that of the daring renaissance man, great writer and hero of the April uprising, Zakhari Stoyanov; on the other, the mother's side, that of the Obretenov family. She is the granddaughter of the brave Bulgarian Granny Tonka.

By virtue of a number of complex circumstances, the daughter of Zakhari Stoyanov has been living for the past 70 years in Augsburg, FRG, but has forgotten neither language nor traditions. Her daughter Hilda also feels that Bulgaria is her homeland. Zakharinka sent her to Bulgaria to junior high school so that she could be "raised on Bulgarian milk and Bulgarian speech." Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren are perfectly familiar with our history and save each new edition of "Zapiski po Bulgarskite Vustaniya" [Notes on the Bulgarian Uprisings]. They are proud of the revolutionary work and creativity of their grandfather and great-grandfather.

We have frequently written about Zakharinka Stoyanova in SLAVYANI. She visits her homeland every year.

This year was no exception. We located her with her relatives (she had been invited to attend the marriage of a daughter of one of her nieces). As always, she was warm and active and her eyes revealed the optimistically daring thrust of her father.

"Every year, when summer comes, like the birds I hear the call of the homeland and come," she said, happy to be here again, among her own people and in her own land. "And since I am old I have taken a handful of dust from here, to have it with me, it is good to feel a handful of native earth..."

"I read and reread SLAVYANI. With it I am always in my homeland. I found out that starting next year it will be named RODOLYUBIE. It is a wonderful name which will remind me of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian people, who combine patriotism with self-sacrifice. Now, when I say RODOLYUBIE, I feel that I am expressing my love for the fatherland and my Bulgarian kin!"

Letters From Abroad

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 47

[Text] Malina Markova, chairman of the P. Khilendarski Bulgarian Cultural Society:

During his visit to the Netherlands, Pavel Matev, chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad, shared his thoughts with members of the management of the Paisiy Khilendarski Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Society on renaming the periodical SLAVYANI to RODOLYUBIE. All of us were happy with this idea. What could be better than the word "patriotism," which most accurately reflects our feeling for the fatherland! This word, this Bulgarian word, inspired our fathers and grandfathers in their struggle against the oppressors! It is a word which warms the hearts in the difficult moments away from the homeland. It is a word which brings us together and unites us, a word which links us with our fatherland, a word with which we shall raise our children.

... We, members of the Bulgarian-Macedonian American Cultural Committee (Club) in Michigan, realizing the need for this change, unanimously agree.

15 August 1982, Pontiac, Michigan, United States

Yancho Zgurov Yanev, chairman of the G. Dimitrov Bulgarian Cultural Club,
Usti nad Labem:

The Slavic Committee has sunk deep roots in the hearts and souls of every one of us. As a member of this great family, however, I too consider its renaming to Committee for Bulgarians Abroad proper and necessary.

Report on Moscow Conference of Church Leaders

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No. 11-12, 1982 pp 73-76

[Article by Stara Zogora Metropolitan Pankratiy]

[Text] Scientists, philosophers and creative workers have created values with skill and artful hands and have bequeathed them to following generations. The tempest of war, however, has frequently turned the achievements of the human genius into ashhills.

What great peaks of material and spiritual culture have been reached by modern mankind! Amazing indeed are the achievements in all fields of science and technology. Valuable knowledge has been gathered, which opens bright prospects for the good of mankind today and in the centuries to come. However, despite this bright presence modern mankind is quite disturbed by the fact that 60 percent of expenses for research in the West go to developing even more advanced weapons, that every day mankind spends more than \$1 billion on armaments, that explosives, mainly nuclear, equaling 100 tons of trotylene have been stockpiled for every person on earth, and that at this time there are about 1,000,300 bombs in the world equaling the power of those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Justifiably, therefore, the world is concerned. The policy of confrontation and of nuclear and neutron war is indeed something terrible. The danger that Europe may become the theater of nuclear military operations is immediate and real and faces the peoples on our continent with a real nightmare which could turn into sinister reality at any moment. Yes, this is indeed the case! However, along with this concern, an awareness is growing that the forces of peace and democracy are tremendous, that they are multiplying with every passing day and that they can--providing that they act unitedly and energetically--prevent the dangerous development of events and to impose the only sensible policy of today, a policy of peaceful coexistence, of limiting the arms race and of disarmament and equal and mutually profitable international cooperation.

Preserving the peace today is the realized, comprehensive and highly humane cause shared by increasingly broad social circles from all parts of the world. The joint peacemaking efforts aimed at the triumph of life over death and eventual nuclear doom and securing a constructive future for all nations rally today hundreds of millions of people regardless of convictions, race and nationality or affiliation with a given socioeconomic system or faith.



Part of the Bulgarian delegation at the conference plenum



Bulgarian Patriarch Maksim
greeting the conference



Spiritual heads of worldwide religions, attending the conference

The effective and timely solution of universal tasks for the sake of peace, reciprocal understanding and cooperation among nations calls for the blending of all peaceloving forces--including the followers of world religions--within a single stream and their unification on the basis of fraternity, dialogue and unity of action aimed at defending the life-asserting principles of reverence among all people of good will throughout the world.

The world conference of "Religious Leaders for the Salvation of the Sacred Gift of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe" was the highly prestigious, impressive and effective manifestation of this peace-making aspiration. It was held in Moscow from 10 to 14 May 1983. It was attended by 590 noted representatives of the Buddhist, Zoroastrian, Hindi, Judaic, Muslim, Sikh, Shinto and Christian religions from 90 countries. In a spirit of fraternal cooperation they discussed the ways and means through which the contribution of religious people the world over to the prevention of a nuclear war could be enhanced.

The noble initiative of His Holiness Moscow and All-Russian Patriarch Pimen was supported by the heads and leaders of all churches and religious communities in the USSR. This idea also met with a warm response and comprehensive support of religious circles the world over as a contribution to the universal struggle for peace.



Leading churchmen and spiritual leaders of world religions
addressing the conference plenum

Participating in the work of the conference were representatives of the World Council of Churches, local and regional Muslim organizations from the Arab and other countries, the Christian Peace Conference, the Conference of European Churches, the Asian Buddhist Peace Conference, the All-African Church Conference, the Berlin Conference of Catholic Christians in Europe, the International League of Women for Peace and Freedom and other international and national religious organizations as well as many noted religious leaders and state, public and scientific personalities and individuals of acknowledged international reputation.

The fact that His Holiness the Bulgarian Patriarch Maksim was elected member of the honorary presidium of this all-religious highly representative forum for the defense of peace, held in Moscow, is a great honor for the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Man was blessed to live in peace in order to be able successfully to build his material and spiritual culture and achieve universal well-being. However, the historical path of mankind has not always followed under the beneficial light of this divine benediction. It has frequently been a path of cruel fratricidal quarrels, international conflicts and immeasurable material wreckage. The higher mankind rises to a higher civilization and amazing technology the more the means for disturbing the peace and the mass destruction of people improve. Peace has always been considered the supreme good. To this day it is the most topical problem which justifiably affects mankind, for it is the source of life, the source of fraternal love among people and aspiration toward the bright horizons of progress. It is an inspiring incentive for the peaceful and purposeful creativity for the happiness of mankind, the preservation of material and cultural values and the well-being of all mankind.

That is why in the course of the discussion on "Aspects of the Peacemaking Activities of World Religions and the Tasks of Religious Leaders in Preventing a Nuclear Catastrophe," the speakers representing different faiths presented at the world conference in Moscow the views of the individual religions on matters of peace and disarmament.

Reporters on the first subtopic--"Catastrophic Consequences of the Arms Race and a Nuclear War," spoke of the dangerous consequences of nuclear war which would destroy mankind and would mark the death of civilization and the disappearance of life.

The discussion of the second subtopic "New Nuclear War Doctrines" considered dangerous theories such as "limited" nuclear warfare, which were described as erroneous and contrary to common sense.

On the subject of the third subtopic--"Necessary Tasks Related to Nuclear Disarmament" submitted to the participants in the conference, a number of practical suggestions on how to help disarmament, nuclear above all, were made.

On the subject of the fourth subtopic--"Immediate Continuation of the Work--Our Vital Task," religious organizations working for peace submitted reports on their programmed activities.

In the course of the meetings by faith, the various faiths tried to define the tasks of the individual worldwide religions in peacemaking activities and building a happy and constructive future for all nations.

The following concluding documents were adopted at the conference: "Appeal to Religious Leaders and Believers of All Religions Throughout the World;" "Message to the Second Special UN Session on Disarmament;" and "Appeal to the Governments of the World."

The results of and resolutions adopted at the Moscow interreligious peace forum assume particular importance and relevance in connection with the Second Special Disarmament Session of the United Nations and the peace suggestions made by the Soviet Union. In their spirit and essence they coincide

with the peaceful aspirations of the people--regardless of faith and ideology --who have set themselves the task of preserving a sacred gift--life on earth.

It is in this connection that the following vitally important basic positions on which world peace depends today must be stressed:

The Soviet state sent an official message to the United Nations assuming the obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. The peoples of the world justifiably expect the decision of the Soviet Union to be followed by similar steps on the part of the other nuclear powers. This will mark a radical improvement in the entire military and political situation in the world.

The human mind, which has created the monstrous nuclear machine for destruction, is able to find a way to dismantle it and to relieve mankind from its nightmare.

The elaboration, adoption and gradual implementation of a program for nuclear disarmament, which could include the following:

Ending the development of new nuclear weapons systems;

Terminating the production of decaying materials needed for the creation of various types of nuclear weapons;

Terminating the production of nuclear ammunition of all kinds and means for their delivery;

Gradual reduction of stockpiled nuclear weapons, including their means of delivery;

Total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Limitations and reductions of nuclear weapons should cover all nuclear means, above all strategic weapons and medium-range armaments;

Reducing the volume of nuclear weapons in Europe.

Despite all difficulties which have appeared in the Soviet-American talks on this matter in Geneva, the Soviet Union is guided, as it has been in the past, by the need to further the talks and reach a mutually acceptable agreement and is doing everything depending on it to this effect;

Banning the deployment of any kind of weapons in outer space.

Imposing a total and general ban of tests of nuclear weapons. The solution of this long-pressing problem will mean that the nuclear powers will be deprived in the future of the possibility of improving nuclear weapons and developing new types and varieties of such weapons;

The solution of the problem of nuclear weapon tests could be approached radically through systematic steps.

Prevention of further proliferation of nuclear weapons; the greater the confidence that a nuclear weapon will not be acquired by countries which do not have it today becomes, the greater will be the incentive to limit existing nuclear potential;

Nuclear-free zones.

Many countries believe that defining geographic zones in which nuclear weapons should neither be created nor deployed would play a major role in limiting the nuclear arms race. Following Mexico and the other Latin American countries which signed the familiar Tlateleco Treaty, similar initiatives were displayed by countries in northern Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East, Africa and many other areas.

We view positively such initiatives and support the ideas favoring:

Banning and eliminating chemical weapons;

Restricting and reducing conventional weapons and armed forces.

This objective as well requires serious talks among countries, which could open the way to a substantial reduction in the current levels of armed forces and armaments on a global scale and in specific areas;

Reduction of military budgets.

This problem has been discussed for many years in the United Nations and at other international forums. Actually, however, military expenditures are continuing to rise at a headlong pace.

Meanwhile, most countries, the Soviet Union and the members of the socialist commonwealth among them, have expressed the conviction that this process can and must be stopped;

Refusal to use the latest discoveries and achievements in science and technology for military purposes.

This is a major and broad problem the solution of which is quite difficult. However, it has been raised by life and clearly the time has come to consider jointly the means for its resolution;

Interconnection between disarmament and international security.

The weakening of military tension, strengthening of strategic stability and termination of the arms race will unquestionably strengthen the security of all countries. At the same time, major political and legal initiatives strengthening the security of the countries would facilitate the adoption of practical measures aimed at limiting and reducing armaments.

In the field of military affairs this would include measures which would terminate the arms race; in the political-legal field this would apply to

settling international conflicts and crises through talks and strengthening the principle of nonuse of force; in the moral-political area this would represent above all the abandonment of any propaganda in favor of nuclear warfare;

Disarmament and economic development.

The arms race is the only area of human activity in which huge material resources are spent. Such resources should be used not for the development of means for the destruction of people but for the solution of the socioeconomic problems of the nations, for upgrading their well-being and for the blossoming of culture.

Looking at the world conference on "Religious Leaders for the Salvation of the Sacred Gift of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe"--in our common concern for the future of mankind and in the complex contemporary situation, we can report that the participants in this forum adopted as their sacred duty to support firmly proposals made for peace and for improving international relations and the well-being of all nations.

Dear fighters for peace and justice:

Who among us has not thrilled to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the fourth part in which the harmony of the orchestra blends with the human voice singing Schiller's "Ode to Joy" ... "Embrace, millions." Millions of fighters for peace of different colors, different social status or political convictions and philosophical and religious views, in a strong fraternal embrace powerfully shout for peace and a bright sky. History, the memory of mankind, recalls many military conflicts. However, it does not recall a single war in which there were no human casualties, in which mothers have not cried. "War is the holiday of death" is an ancient Indian saying. "No good can be expected of war," the Roman poet Virgil said. That is why, in the words of the great humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam "the greatest honor should go to those who prevent war, who restore accord with cheerful counsel and who do everything possible to make armies and huge stockpiles of weapons unnecessary."

Yes, we bow deeply and render high honor to anyone who during these times of concern is in the close ranks of the fighters for peace, who works night and day to prevent a nuclear catastrophe and to save our planet from death and destruction and to preserve the sacred gift of life, anyone who can decode the sign of the times and see in the great peace initiatives the brightness of today and tomorrow and the peaceful future of mankind, and who can give his mind and heart to their full implementation.

Let us comprehensively work for the full implementation of the peace programs of the world interreligious conference, the great land of the soviets, our dear Bulgarian fatherland and all peace-loving people, so that tomorrow may be a day without wars and fratricide, a day of worthy human life, well-being and constructive upsurge, and so that the cause of peace, disarmament, life and the happy future of mankind may prevail!

Donations to Bulgaria

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 78

[Text] The tradition of making donations for the benefit of one's own country and people has grown into a characteristic feature of Bulgarians in the long run of many centuries. On the occasion of the celebration of the 1300th anniversary from the foundation of the Bulgarian state a jubilee fund was set up in our country.

The purpose of its activities is "to register and manage the real estate or movable properities, monetary funds and other prerogatives accorded by way of donation or testament on behalf of physical or juridical persons living in the country or abroad contributive to the fund and to other socialist organizations as well as other initiatives in the country or abroad conforming to the goals of the jubilee fund as an institution."

Donations are supposed to encourage undertakings to the benefit of the people in the sphere of education, culture, health and other social areas in compliance with the will of the donors or testament-makers.

In case the will of the donor cannot be fulfilled, the management of the fund is supposed to inform the donor on it and to suggest new ways of investing the money for the sake of similar purposes. Donations and wills dedicated to endeavors in contravention of the laws and regulations of the socialist society and of socialist construction in Bulgaria will not be enforced. As an expression of public acknowledgment to donations stone slabs or metal plaques are put up unless the will should stipulate to the contrary. The very act of donation is implemented by the respective representations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria through the central management of the fund in Sofia or through any other establishment of state authority in this country, e.g., a local council or municipality, as well as through the respective notaries in a foreign country. The "1300th Anniversary of Bulgaria" fund is an institution contributing to the closer relations among all Bulgarians regardless of their residence, within or without the borders of the fatherland.

History of Bulgarian Emigre Press

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 11-12, 1982 p 81

[Article by journalist Georgi Tambuev]

[Text] Starting with this issue, a series of materials on the earliest periodicals put out by Bulgarians abroad will be published. Born of the need to protect and assert the national community and self-confidence of our compatriots scattered far from the homeland, these publications depict to us the essential features of the lives of the emigres and the atmosphere of an age with its aspirations and feelings which have already become part of history. It is precisely with the wish to make a contribution, although

modest, to the future history of the Bulgarian colony abroad, that the editors begin the present section which will be written by journalist Georgi Tambuev.

Some people may find it surprising but it is a fact that the first Bulgarian newspaper published in the United States came out in January of 1902, i.e., at the very beginning of the century. It was the work not of a single writer but a group of Bulgarians, members of the Vasil Levski Macedonian-Ederne Society. The first eight issues were edited directly by the society and were exclusively dedicated to the establishment of Bulgarian-Macedonian committees among the emigres to help the Macedonian-Ederne liberation movement. Starting with Issue No 9, it was edited by a committee consisting of Marko P. Kaludov (editor in chief) and Spas Shumkov, Todor Terziev and Georgi Zafirov. It was printed by a cooperatively owned press using the Russian alphabet and came out twice monthly.

In putting the newspaper in the hands of a committee, the society explained to its members that "it relieves itself of the concern for editing and publication" and "denies any responsibility for the spirit of anything written outside the columns under the 'Druzhestvo Levski' heading."

It would be interesting to look at the pages of BORBA, from the distance of the past 80 years, to see the aspirations of our first emigres. It is equally interesting to dig into the archives of the emigres and feel better the atmosphere in which the first Bulgarian newspaper was published.

"I have just finished looking at the table of European immigration to the United States, which was kindly given to me by the American consul general in London," wrote Argus in NOVOYE VREMYA (No 5, January 1911). "It covers the period from 1871 to 1909. During these 39 years 19,657,000 people emigrated from Europe to the United States, a number almost equal to the entire population of Spain, which is 19,713,000."

"Thirty shipping companies 'pour out' in New York every month more than 1 million passengers from Europe," wrote a French source at the turn of the century.

Bulgaria was not far behind in this "migration of the nations" from the old to the new world. The initiator of Bulgarian emigration to the United States is Iliya Yovchev from Elena. The "Almanac of Bulgarians in America" (Granite City, 1933) describes him as the "father and founder of our emigre movement." He was also described by Aleko Konstantinov in his travelogue "To Chicago and Back:" "Mr Yovchev is familiar with the weaknesses of the Americans. He speaks English well and helps to promote and disseminate it."

By the turn of the 20th century a number of agencies of foreign shipping companies were opened in Bulgaria, such as the "Balkan-American Company," the "Hamburg-America" German company, the "Provance" French company, and others. They encouraged the population to leave everything behind and take off. "The agents promise mountains of gold to those who leave," stressed Dimitur Petkov, prime minister and minister of internal affairs, at the Fourth

Regular Session of the 13th Regular National Assembly (20 September 1906). Their agitation fell on fertile ground because of the difficult economic situation in the country. "The farming population has become indebted incredibly fast," noted St. D. Garbuzov in the newspaper BULGARSKI NOVINI, published in the United States (No 2, 20 March 1905), in discussing the reasons for mass emigration, "and actually lost its property. The petty artisans went bankrupt and abandoned their professions. The decline in farming and crafts led to a decline in trade."

By 1890 there were already 5,000 Bulgarians in the United States. This was confirmed with the 30 June 1890 census and the table of the periodically published immigration quota. By the turn of the century (1901-1910) there were some 100,000 Bulgarians in the United States, coming from the principality and the enslaved Macedonian and Thracian lands. According to the newspaper MAKEDONIYA, the organ of the Bulgarian emigres published in Granite City (No 2, 1907), "today they exceed this honorable figure." Entire Bulgarian colonies appeared in Chicago, Toledo, Madison, New York, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Stelton, Kansas City, St. Louis, and elsewhere.

The emigrants were mainly adolescents, young men and men under 30. They left with or without the permission of the chiefs of police. Following is an excerpt of the correspondence between agents of the shipping companies and the companies abroad: "I am sending you 20 Napoleons and 15 crowns." According to the VARNENSKI TURGOVSKI VESTNIK, "Napoleon stands for an immigrant without a passport and crown for one with a passport." "One will rarely come across a soldier," concernedly writes VOENNI IZVESTIYA, "who would be unable to say that his elder brother, relative or even father is in America."

Brief Reports on Activities Abroad

Sofia SLAVYANI in Bulgarian No 10, 1982 pp 43-44, 46

[Text] By Lyuba Yasna, Toronto, Canada

On 30 May the Bulgarian consulate general in Toronto invited a large group of our compatriots on three very interesting occasions. In addition to members of the consulate and the general trade mission, they were attended by the Bulgarian ambassador Prof Stefan Stanev. After welcoming the guests, the ambassador opened the first part of the ceremony: the presentation of medals on the occasion of the 1,300th anniversary of the founding of Bulgaria. The State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic presented awards to a number of Bulgarian patriots who live in Toronto and hold the torch of national consciousness.

In his brief, emotional appeal to the recipients of the awards, the Bulgarian ambassador said, among other things, that "this medal will remind you of something which can never be forgotten: the homeland. What is the homeland? It is the songs we heard in our childhood, our youth, and everything which has made us citizens and people. Wear it in good health and happiness."

Following the presentation of the medals, expressions of thanks were presented by Veneta Ilieva, Jean Gruev, Radoslav Raychev and Lyuba Yasna, who also read one of her poems.

On the occasion of the 24 May holiday the memory of our Slavic educators--the brothers Kiril and Metodiy--was honored. The words of the ambassador to the effect that this holiday is a great day for the Bulgarian nationality and is related to the aspiration of the Bulgarians to gain knowledge and culture, the day on which Khristo Botev called for the struggle against the enslavers, touched all those present and reminded them of the past. They remembered the homeland, when excited, bearing flowers, they hurried to their schools to decorate them and to sing in honor of the people's enlighteners--the holy brothers Kiril and Metodiy. Back in school after the parade, they would end the day with folk dances and patriotic songs. What excitement, and what memories!

With last year's meeting in Toronto with the hero Slavcho Trunski, this year our compatriots had the good fortune to meet Bulgarian cosmonaut Georgi Ivanov. This was the third and equally pleasant part of the celebration. Prof Stefan Stanev, the Bulgarian ambassador, introduced the dear guest who had come to Canada with a special delegation of noted members of Bulgarian science. Delegation member Prof K. Serafimov described some features related to the flight of the Bulgarian cosmonaut. He emphasized that Bulgaria sent its cosmonaut in orbit around the earth ahead of the other Balkan countries. The courage and heroism of our cosmonaut and his willpower and firmness during the flight which took place under exceptionally difficult circumstances were emphasized. This also underscored the spiritual strength of the Bulgarians who had experienced a number of trials and displayed their heroism during their centuries-old history.

In a few words, the modest and pleasant cosmonaut Georgi Ivanov described his happiness to meet compatriots so far from the homeland, and who are welcoming him so warmly and enthusiastically. He emphasized his happiness at going into space on the wings of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship.

After the greetings everyone hurried to shake the hand of the dear guest and be photographed with him. Some had even brought their children to remember that they had seen in Toronto a Bulgarian cosmonaut who had brought the warm greetings of the homeland and space.

Interview by Kseniya Kiselincheva

Interview with Dariya Botros, chairman of the Otets Paisiy Bulgarian Society in Khartoum, winner of the "1,300th Anniversary of Bulgaria" competition, sponsored by the periodical SLAVYANI

[Question] What motivated you to participate in the competition and how did you prepare for it away from the homeland?

[Answer] The moment I read in SLAVYANI that a competition was to take place I decided to participate. I wanted to write on all five topics and to answer

the 19 questions. A variety of feelings and thoughts occupied my mind while I was working on the contest: on the one hand, I believed in my success, although I was subject to frequent doubts. At that point I would not write for weeks on end. But then I resumed and I kept reading tirelessly, for I had forgotten a number of things and was ignorant of others. Thus, my faith alternated with despair. Eventually I completed everything 10 days ahead of schedule.

[Question] What difficulties did you encounter in the course of your preparations?

[Answer] The lack of sources was a tremendous difficulty. For example, I was forced to borrow "History of Bulgaria" from the library in Pelovo, my native city.

[Question] Can you tell us what you felt when you were told that you had won first prize in the competition?

[Answer] My first feeling was one of happiness and pride. As winner of the first prize I was awarded a free ticket from Khartoum to Sofia and back and a 15-day trip around the homeland, paid for by the Slavic Committee. I would like to take this trip together with my family, so that we could enjoy together the clean air, the natural beauty and the numerous historical and cultural sites in which our small yet ancient land is so rich.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Slavic Committee for the warm reception during all my visits and the honor which it awarded me by inviting me to attend the 24 May demonstration. It is difficult to express all of this and all I can say is only one great Bulgarian thank you.

[Question] In what other ways do the Bulgarians living in the Sudan express their patriotic feelings?

[Answer] I would like very much to say a few words about the recently established Otets Paisiy Society, members of which are Bulgarian women married to Sudanese. The society has a management, bylaws and a plan of work. Currently our meetings are held alternately in our homes.

[Question] What is the purpose of your society and what steps are planned as part of your work program?

[Answer] The objective of the newly founded Bulgarian society is to maintain closer and regular contacts among our compatriots who maintain such close ties among themselves through our native language, traditions, history and love for the fatherland.

Our first measure was dedicated to the 1300th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian state. We sent a letter/appeal and gifts to the Slavic Committee through the Bulgarian Embassy in Khartoum.

We are planning to develop a tradition of marking Bulgarian national and social holidays. These will be occasions for friendly contacts which will enable us to exchange experiences on a variety of family, living and cultural problems. We are particularly eager for news related to the social and cultural life in faraway Bulgaria. We hope that in this manner we will be able to preserve a strong Bulgarian spirit not only in ourselves but in our children and enhance the prestige of our country among those around us. This will be our modest contribution and proof of our love for the homeland and respect for its past and present accomplishments.

By Nikola Kitanov, Neu-Isenburg, FRG:

The purpose of the newly founded German-Bulgarian Cultural Society in Frankfurt am Main is to make a contribution to the rapprochement between the Bulgarian and German peoples through the organization of cultural measures and the participation of noted Bulgarian actors, singers and dance companies. On the initiative of the society, a photographic exhibit on the theme of "1,300 Years of Bulgaria" was solemnly inaugurated on 2 June 1983 in Neu-Isenburg. The exceptionally great interest shown by the German public in the exhibition, which toured almost all large cities in the FRG, confirms the timeliness of this initiative.

In his solemn speech at the inauguration of the photographic exhibition, which was attended by officials from the Bulgarian Embassy in Bonn and the mayoralty of Neu-Isenburg, Dr Buchel, the mayor of Neu-Isenburg, displayed exceptional knowledge of Bulgarian history and present.

Dr Nikola Kovachev, counselor at the Bulgarian Embassy in Bonn, described in great detail the cultural life and development of the Bulgarian People's Republic in recent years to the more than 200 guests invited on the occasion.

Dr Todor Ganovski, chairman of the German-Bulgarian Cultural Society in Frankfurt, thanked most profoundly the cultural department of Neu-Isenburg and the Bulgarian Embassy for their help and assistance in the organization and holding of the exhibition. He expressed the hope that this will not be the last such event in Neu-Isenburg.

After the solemn opening of the exhibition, according to an old Bulgarian custom, the official guests were offered bread and salt.

"Bulgaria is a country which, unfortunately, we are not well familiar with!" exclaimed Dr Buchel, after touring the exhibition. During the cocktail hour hosted by the cultural department of the Bulgarian Embassy in Bonn, more than 20 types of typical Bulgarian dishes and drinks were offered. The Bulgarian documentaries "Bozhentsi," "The Generosity of a Land," "Aleksandur Nevski" and "Tryavna," which were shown during the cocktail hour, added to the information on the cultural heritage of the Bulgarians and were viewed with great attention.

As part of these Bulgarian culture days in Neu-Isenburg, the Bulgarian feature film "The Surgeons" was shown on 8 June; a concert with the song-and-

dance group of the Bulgarian Radio, conducted by Mikhaylov and choreographer Manov, took place on 13 June. Both occasions triggered tremendous interest among the citizens of Neu-Isenburg and the German press reported extensively and sympathetically all initiatives of the German-Bulgarian Cultural Society in Frankfurt am Main.

By Vesa Hansen, Copenhagen, Denmark

The first joint meeting of the Danish-Bulgarian Society and the Bulgaria Club was held in June, on the occasion of the celebration of the centennial of the birth of Georgi Dimitrov. It was attended by noted activists of the Danish Communist Party--Ib Norlind and Alfred Jensen, a former minister--who described their personal recollections of the great son of the Bulgarian people.

All guests were presented with emblems with the face of Dimitrov.

A bibliographic outline of the works of Dimitrov, translated into Danish, was produced by the Land og Folk Publishing House.

A quiz was held during the celebration. The questions triggered great excitement and created a good mood.

At the end, Johanes Wolf, chairman of the Danish-Bulgarian Society, thanked the guests for their active participation in the nice holiday. Yonko Yordanov, the chairman of the Bulgaria Club and a good accordion player, invited the guests to dance. The evening ended in a mass celebration.

Art Works Donated by Bulgarian in France

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 1, 1983 pp 4-5

[Text] My profession as a journalist provides me with frequent opportunities to meet and talk with people who are amazingly interesting in all respects. Our compatriot, Dr Kostadin Delchev, whom I met recently in Paris, is one of them.

Those who follow the Bulgarian press are sure to have come across his name. Recently a number of newspapers wrote about him and his wife Claudia Delcheva. The occasion was the gift they made to our people of works by world-famous masters during the days of the Second International Assembly.

What led this man, who has been living in France for the past 53 years, to make this exceptional gesture and part with such precious works of art he so greatly values?

The question became unnecessary, for he answered in the happiness of meeting a Bulgarian, his hospitality and his emotion in describing his last visit to his homeland, Sofia, his native Asenovgrad, Plovdiv, the Bachkovski Monastery, the Assembly, and the awards presented by the Thirteen Centuries of Bulgaria Foundation...

The entire conversation took place with the lively participation of his wife --an unusually intelligent woman, a doctor of sciences and a great expert in art and music (she plays the piano wonderfully), a woman exceptionally warm and in love with Bulgaria.

"I was told in Sofia that when my intention to make this gift became known, there was great happiness at first. However, on being told that I am a family man, the people told themselves, 'well, this would hardly take place,'" Delchev said, smiling.

"I fell in love with Bulgaria and I feel it my second homeland," Mrs Delcheva added, and began describing her travels in our country, first in Bulgarian and then in French.

We spoke in the Delchev cottage, not far from Versailles. We were surrounded by paintings, drawings, sculptures, porcelain and ceramic objects, fabrics and other works of art from France, Italy, China, Japan, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and other near and far countries. I had the feeling of being in an art gallery. This is indeed a different world, very different from the hurried and noisy daily life outside. It is the world of esthetic joy, profound thoughts and moral loftiness, a world in which, as in a tale, artists from the past and the present centuries meet, from the masters of impressionistic painting through the innovation of Cezanne, the explosion of color of the Fauvists, expressionists and early abstractionists to the late Cezannists. Renoir, Derain, Matisse, Modigliani, Pasquin, Rouault, Vlaminck, Segonzag, Buffet, Utrillo, Degas and Pissarro are names which need no adjectives or comparisons. They tell a great deal to anyone interested in painting. Side by side with them I also see a number of works by our own Vasil Ivanov, a painter and graphic artist with an original style, each one of whose canvases opens new horizons through his inexhaustible and great talent.

Each one of these works has its own interesting story, not only that of its creation but frequently of the way it ended up in the collection. Kostadin Delchev remembers all in minute detail. He described to me entertainingly, for example, the way he was able to buy the wooden sculpture by Modigliani--a beautiful head of a woman, sculpted in the style of his mysterious idols and statues in which one feels something of black or Russian art--in 1949. Few people know that, arriving in Paris in 1906, Modigliani introduced himself as a sculptor. He sculpted only until 1913, hindered by his poverty. Occasionally he was forced to work with railroad ties from the subway or stone from nearby construction sites, which were retrieved by the workers the following day. The woman's head in Delchev's collection was sculpted in 1910. Actually, it is the only Modigliani sculpture made of wood and only one of the no more than 40 sculptures still in existence.

"I developed an interest in paintings and sculpture while very young," Kostadin Delchev says. "In 1929, when I came to France, the first thing I did was visit the Louvre and the Rodin Museum. I came here to study the art of dentistry. I call it art not only because this is the way it is referred to in French but because throughout my life and in everything I have sought art, beauty and creativity."

After his graduation in Lille, in northern France, Kostadin Delchev returned to Bulgaria, passed his state examinations and worked for 6 months in Stanimaka, today's Asenovgrad. He then returned to France, however, mainly because of the rich cultural life in Paris, with its unique art galleries and museums and the possibility of always being in touch with great art.

"All my parents could give me were what in my view are the two best qualities --industriousness and thrift," he went on to say. "Throughout my professional life I have worked hard, one could say night and day. I had a large number of patients. I lived modestly. Thanks to this I was able to allow myself the pleasure of purchasing works of art and gradually to put this collection together. A number of paintings hang in my apartment in Paris, and 44--oils, pastels, watercolors, lithographs and drawings--my wife Claudia and I included in a gift to Bulgaria. They include works by Renoir, Derain, Matisse, Pasquin, Rouault, Siniac, Suzanne Valadon, Morris Vlaminck, Jacques Villon, Andrey Lansky, Bernard Buffet, Vasil Ivanov, and Georgi Kovachev.... Last summer this collection was exhibited at the Shipka 6 Gallery in Sofia. In the future it will be exhibited in the Gallery for Modern Foreign Art on Aleksandur Nevski Square, currently under construction."

According to Kostadin Delchev, making this gift was an old dream fully shared by his wife. "I wanted this way to express my gratitude to Bulgaria and to make a gift to my people of works by world-renowned masters whose artistic influence will give endless esthetic joy and will educate.. I wanted to express my gratitude also to France for giving me the opportunity to be exposed to its culture and assemble this collection. Do you know what makes me the happiest? I never imagined that this gift would be rated so exceptionally highly and would trigger an expression of such great gratitude and emotion and that my wife and I would be welcomed with such great honor."

"Believe me, I am not exaggerating in the least by telling you that we returned from Bulgaria incredibly happy and spiritually enriched," Mrs Delcheva added. "That which only the two of us had and enjoyed will now please many other people, an entire nation."

"Lovers of the arts, who know the value of such a gift, not only from the viewpoint of its museum value but the cost can understand what this generosity means," Prof Svetlin Rusev said, at the opening of the exhibit in Sofia. "What doubles its value is that it was presented above all with a great deal of love and a generosity which not materially but spiritually rich people possess."

Amnesty Law Explained

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 1, 1983 p 7

[Article by Vasil Gotsev]

[Text] The Law on Amnesty, dated 8 July 1981, was passed on the occasion of the 1,300th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian state. Jurist Vasil Gotsev, from the Lawyers' Bureau for Work With Foreign Countries, explains the most important stipulations of the law.

According to Article 2 of the Law on Amnesty, amnesty was granted for crimes related to illegally leaving the borders of the Bulgarian People's Republic or illegally remaining outside the country after the citizen had left the country with proper permission. The text of the stipulation is short and comprehensive:

"Amnesty is granted for crimes committed as per Articles 279, 280 and 281 of the Penal Code and, respectively, crimes as per Article 155 "a" of the Penal Code, effective up to 13 March 1951, and Articles 275 and 276 of the Penal Code effective until 1 May 1968, committed by Bulgarian citizens before the law was passed providing that they voluntarily return to the country by 31 December 1983."

The different articles are based on the amendments made in the course of time in the penal legislation. The respective crimes entail the punishment of deprivation of freedom for different terms, fines and the possible court sentence of confiscating part or all of the property. Should the defendant have owned objects the purpose of which was to commit the crime or were used in the commission of the crime, such objects are confiscated by the state as per Article 53 of the Penal Code.

Article 83 of the Penal Code (NK) of the Bulgarian People's Republic defines the term amnesty as follows:

"The act of amnesty wipes out the criminal nature of specific actions or relieves from penal liability and the consequences of a sentence for stipulated crimes."

This means, actually, that two categories of amnesty exist. Under the first, as a result of radical changes in the assessment of the social danger which one action or another constitutes, the criminal nature of the action, which had been previously considered a crime, is wiped out. Under the second, the perpetrators of some types of actions, the criminal nature of which has not disappeared, are freed from penal liability and the consequences of their sentence.

It was precisely this type of amnesty which was granted in 1981. Bulgarian citizens who left the country without permission or remained outside after the expiration of the permission to be abroad will not be prosecuted for their crime committed before 8 July 1981 provided that they voluntarily return to the country by 31 December 1983. Article 3 paragraph 1 of the Law on Amnesty specifically states that they are "relieved from penal liability and, respectively, from punishment and the consequences of their sentence as per Article 83 of the Penal Code." This means that individuals who have committed a crime as per these texts of the Penal Code and the corresponding previous penal law and who have not been tried will not be tried. Nor will they be subject to the additional penalties stipulated by the Penal Code, such as a fine or confiscation of property. Individuals who have already been sentenced after returning to the country will not serve their court sentence. Article 3 paragraph 2 of the Law on Amnesty, however, stipulates that the objects of the perpetrators, planned for or used in the commission of the

crime (Article 53 NK) and the confiscated property or collected fines based on enacted sentences for crimes committed by them (or based on the Ukase on deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship) will not be returned.

No other administrative or social sanctions will be applied to those who return to the country. The amnesty for their actions means that those who have committed them will not be considered as having been sentenced. No such sentence will be entered in their police records. They will enjoy all civic and political rights of Bulgarian citizens who are innocent of any crime.

Report From Austria

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 1, 1983 p 7

[Report by engineer Kiril Filipov and engineer Vasil Draganov]

[Text] The management of the Kiril i Metodiy Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Organization in Vienna considered at its expanded meeting information on the ceremonious renaming of the Slavic Committee to the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and noted with a feeling of particular satisfaction that the renaming of the committee meets a contemporary need of all our compatriots living in various parts of the world. This gives us grounds to hope that the committee will reach within the shortest possible time its objectives and tasks, so that all of us together may congratulate ourselves with the strengthening of this cherished feeling of patriotism for kin and homeland.

The management notes with particular gratitude your attention and respect expressed through the inclusion of the accredited chairman of our organization as member of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. It also expresses its gratitude for the generous hospitality shown to our large delegation and expresses its confidence that in the future as well our cultural and educational organization will try to remain in the leading ranks of the Bulgarian colonies abroad.

Report on American-Bulgarian Cultural Club

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 1, 1983 pp 22-23

[Interview with New York restorer-painter Anton Rusev]

[Text] During a trip to the homeland, New York restorer-painter Anton Rusev shared with the readers of RODOLYUBIE his creative plans related to the internal decorations of the new Bulgarian church in New York.

[Question] To the best of my understanding, recently your art studio in New York has been working on an interesting project involving icon painting in the new Bulgarian church in New York. How do you personally consider this initiative of the Bulgarian church community and the American-Bulgarian Cultural Center?

[Answer] Many are the thoughts and feelings which accompany the implementation of this patriotic initiative--the inauguration of the Sveti Kiril i Metodiy New Bulgarian Church, in May 1983. As chairman of the artistic council of the center I am in charge of the internal decoration of the church. Twenty painters from my restoration workshop are tirelessly working on the project. The building is on 50th Street, between 10th and 12th avenues in the central part of New York. Previously it was the Croatian Catholic Church which has now been redone.

What we are trying to do is restore the true atmosphere of the old Bulgarian monasteries and churches in which the age-old spirit of our people was sheltered throughout the ages. Intimate contact with crucial scenes of our history, which will be depicted on the walls of the church, will revive the patriotic feelings of all Bulgarians and will originate curiosity and interest in Bulgaria among many Americans. I hope that in this manner the feeling of roots will dampen among the Bulgarian visitors of the church existing social, professional or other differences. My belief in this is strengthening with every passing day. Suffice it to note that at the beginning the club consisted of some 20 people, whereas now the hall is crowded when we meet. Donations are made, thus supporting an old Renaissance tradition of the Bulgarian people. Thus, for example, many of our compatriots living in New Jersey have been attending our meetings recently and so far have donated for the new church \$10,000.

[Question] Tell us about the cultural club which was recently opened as part of the new church. What are the objectives and tasks which shape its initiatives?

[Answer] The American-Bulgarian Club for Cultural Relations was organized by the Bulgarian church community in New York and is supported with donations by its Board of Trustees. Gradually, the cultural center has become a center for anyone interested in Bulgaria, anyone who is eager for news from his distant homeland. In the club one can hear pure Bulgarian speech, take part in interesting talks on geographic and historical topics, learn the latest news from Bulgaria, and see documentaries. In this manner, Bulgarians living abroad become more familiar with their kin and culture and experience proud love and reverence for the indomitable Bulgarian spirit which has surmounted all trials.

The club is a meeting place not only for Bulgarians from different states but from different countries as well. We sometimes welcome precious guests in this Bulgarian oasis on 50th Street who are noted social and cultural personalities in Bulgaria. Let me add that our meetings are also attended by Americans who are interested and show a friendly attitude toward Bulgaria. They include people of different professions, such as students of Slavic affairs, historians, journalists, and university professors. They are the live, the direct contact between Bulgarians and Americans, which is maintained spontaneously. They describe to friends and colleagues their impressions of what they have heard and seen about a small country whose history combines the cultures of the East and the West. It is thus that Bulgaria acquires dozens of unsuspected friends and well-wishers.

[Question] In addition to the inauguration of the Kiril i Metodi Church, expected so eagerly by all true patriots, what other plans and projects do you have for the immediate future?

[Answer] Let me immediately share with you the wonderful idea of founding a Bulgarian school attached to the church. You can imagine how important it is for the new generations of our colony to become acquainted with the Bulgarian language and culture starting at a most tender age. We also hope that VESTI, our periodical publication, will be able to meet the tastes of its readers better and better. In this respect we are mostly relying on the periodical RODOLYUBIE. The interesting and objective facts it presents in a variety of journalistic genres gradually wash away the dregs of the old prejudices and fallacies existing among some of our compatriots because of insufficient and inaccurate information. I would like to think that this time again the Orthodox Church will rally the patriotic intentions of all Bulgarians as it did in olden times. We also follow the increasingly frequent manifestations of cultural exchanges with socialist Bulgaria and are excited by the recognition which is shown by the exigent American public. Suffice it to mention the film on the great painter Maystora, which was shown on Channel 13 of the American television, the performances of the "Bodra Smyana" choir and the Pirin Ensemble, and the exhibit of the Thracian gold treasury at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Personally, as the art manager of the internal decoration project, I am gaining some confidence in the successful completion of our project by seeing the way the carmine-sky blue frescoes of the Bachkovski, Rila and Preobrazenski monasteries come alive under their golden lining, softened by the background of walnut carvings. The interlaced vegetation carvings reveal the great skill of Dimitur Kushlev from Sofia, whose creative roots are difficult to trace--Samokov, Tryavna or Bansko....

[Question] Which are the crucial scenes which, as you said yourself, have been borrowed from our history and which will remind the people of their roots?

[Answer] We were concerned above all not only with purely religious subjects but fatal historical moments, such as the conversion of the Bulgarians to Christianity, the creation of the Slavic alphabet, and the tragic death of Evtimiy, the last Bulgarian patriarch. I think that if we succeed in re-creating the true atmosphere of the Bulgarian church we will be able to keep alive the patriotic spirit of any Bulgarian who crosses its threshold with thoughts of the distant homeland.

Second Meeting Report of Trustees' Board

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 4, 1983 inside front cover page

[Text] Second meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad; meeting with businessmen in May; the Ilinden-Preobrazhensko rally from 29 July to 7 August.

The second meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad took place in an inspired and practical atmosphere. The first item was the report on the work done in 1982. Both the main presentation and the statements noted that during the past period the committee energized substantially its activities, sought new ways and means to establish contacts with our compatriots, relied on the trust of the Bulgarian colony in the peaceful policy of the Bulgarian state and directed its efforts toward the development of friendship and cooperation with the peoples among whom Bulgarians live. The ceremony of the renaming of the committee and the periodical was remembered by all those who were present as marking the beginning of a new stage in this patriotic cause. This cause is already enjoying extensive public support. Most actively cooperating in many of last year's initiatives were the Ministry of Public Education, the Committee for Culture, the State Committee for Tourism, the Union of Bulgarian Journalists and other departments and institutions. Noted public figures have been making their personal contribution to the measures organized by the committee. It was also reported that seven new societies of Bulgarians abroad were created and officially registered, raising the overall number of organized forms of life of the colony to 92. The actions of the societies became more varied. The centennial of the birth of Georgi Dimitrov was celebrated particularly widely. Traditionally, the day honoring the brothers Kiril and Metodiy and other historical dates were properly noted. The Balkan War was recalled with a great deal of feeling. Particular efforts were made on behalf of the second, third and fourth-generation Bulgarians born abroad, growing up away from the homeland of their parents and grandparents. A holiday by the sea was organized for the smallest among them; others participated in the Banner of Peace International Children's Assembly; 32 young people, children of our compatriots, have begun their higher education in Bulgaria with committee scholarships.

It was reported at the meeting that on the suggestion of our compatriots meetings-dialogues will be organized with prominent Bulgarians in business circles abroad. We all know that today Bulgaria is an industrial-agrarian country with a strongly developed industry and that the country's foreign trade exceeds \$12 billion. Our compatriots play a certain role in the implementation of such huge foreign economic activities. The meeting-dialogue was planned jointly with the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the first half of May. The timing was not accidental, for this is precisely the time of the spring Plovdiv samples fair. The most competent individuals will acquaint the participants in a meeting with the condition and prospects of development of the Bulgarian economy through 1990; Bulgaria's foreign economic relations and economic and scientific and technical cooperation with other countries; possibilities of industrial cooperation between Bulgarian foreign trade organizations and firms in Western countries and cooperation in Third World markets; conditions for the establishment of mixed enterprises in Bulgaria; and some foreign exchange-financial problems. The program for the meeting includes business contacts and cultural recreation.

The Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad adopted the initiative of organizing a rally in honor of the 80th anniversary of the

Ilinden-Preobrazhensko uprising. The idea was triggered by the living memory of the centuries of struggle waged by the Bulgarian people for liberation, in which this uprising stands out as one of the peaks of patriotism. The rally will take place between 29 July and 7 August, which will enable the participants to join the nationwide celebrations in Blagoevgrad Okrug. For those who wish it a tour of other historical sites related to the uprising and participation and subsequent ceremonies in Burgas Okrug, which was the center of action of the Preobrazhentsi participants, can be organized at their own expense (\$30 daily). The program calls for participation in the national holiday in the Predela Site, between Rila and Pirin Mountains, a visit to beautiful Melnik city, the Rozhenski Monastery, the newly inaugurated monument at the Samuil Fortress and the Rila Monastery, and attending the solemn religious service in the Aleksandur Nevski in Sofia. Since historically the Ilinden-Preobrazhensko uprising is the extension of the April 1876 uprising, many of the itineraries will cover Panagyurishte and Koprivshitsa, Klisura and Batak, Perushtitsa and Bratsigovo. The rally will take 10 days and the additional tour for those who wish it, another 12. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will issue free visas to those who will attend the rally. The Balkan Bulgarian Civil Aviation will issue discount tickets and the Balkanturist facilities will accept them at rates charged Bulgarian citizens.

The second meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad earmarked the outlines for a working year. May it be successful for all the members!

Letters From Abroad

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 4, 1983 p 1

[Text] Dear editors:

On behalf of my small children and on my own I greet you with the coming of spring. I wish you great creative successes in the noble mission of promoting peace and prosperity for all children on earth.

The small Veselinka and Aleksandur send you their drawings as friendly greetings for the RODOLYUBIE periodical and for the Bulgarian children who participated in the Banner of Peace-82 Second International Assembly.

Nikolay Kulyagin, Malmo, Sweden

From the editors:

Thank you for your good wishes. We are pleased to publish the drawings of your children and we invite them to send their best works to the Thirteen Centuries of Bulgarian Foundation, No 15 Moskovska Street, Sofia 1000. This unique children's Louvre, the foundations for which were laid by the Banner of Peace International Children's Assembly, is preserving the works of young talents from all five continents, among whom are also children of our compatriots. The next Banner of Peace Assembly will take place again in Sofia in 1985.

Dear editors:

I am writing you after the traditional celebration of our compatriots here. The photograph I am sending you shows a mockup of our monument and those who were elected at the celebration. This year, Mariana Zlatanova, 16, was elected queen; Alicia Angelova, 16, and Sulema Angelova, 15, were elected princesses. Thousands of Bulgarians with their families came from all parts of Argentina. Song-and-dance groups from neighboring Latin American countries were invited.

Please accept my warm overseas greetings.

Mincho Draganov, Las Brenas, Argentina

From the editors:

We await letters and reports on the lives of our compatriots in Las Brenas.

Dear editors:

Please accept our thanks for regularly sending the periodical RODOLYUBIE. After we read it, we share it with our friends and compatriots.

Enclosed please find a check for \$25 for my subscription; the balance is for the House of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad Fund.

Respectfully yours,

Lambro Pliakov, Toronto, Canada

Report From Damascus

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 4, 1983 p 2

[Report by Ivanka Antonova]

[Text] An exhibition of the works of Aneta Dragushanu, member of the Union of Bulgarian Painters, who lives and works in Vidin together with her husband, painter Georgi Petrov, was organized under the patronage of the Syrian-Bulgarian Friendship Society.

Among the first to visit the exhibit were Bulgarian women living in Damascus, married to Syrian citizens. Their Bulgarian Women's Club is active and responds to all Bulgarian activities in Syria. Thus, on the occasion of the Aneta Dragushanu exhibit, the club organized a collective visit to the exhibit and a meeting-discussion with the painter. More than 20 Bulgarian women spent pleasant hours among the canvases depicting the life of peasant women in Vidin or in lively discussion with the painter. She described to the women present the content of some canvases and their meaning and shared with them her creative searches and intentions.

Report on Activities in Various Countries

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 5, 1983 pp 2-4, 6, 8

[Text] From Ade, the Netherlands, by Khristo Khristov:

A meeting was held by the Paisiy Khilendraski Bulgarian Cultural Society within the framework of "Bulgarian Weeks" sponsored by the Committee for Tourism, in the cultural center of Ade, the Netherlands. The meeting was opened by Malina Markova, society chairman. Greetings were presented by Bulgarian ambassador Khristo Darenkov. A concert program was presented with the participation of the Berova-Marchinkov singers. A rich program of Bulgarian folk dances and songs was presented by a Dutch folklore dance group, and a folklore orchestra consisting of a bagpipe, shepherd's pipe, rebeck and a Bulgarian folk singer.

Many Bulgarians expressed their satisfaction with the fact that thanks to the new society they will be able to meet in a Bulgarian environment.

From Basel, Switzerland, by Yanko Yankov:

Two ceremonious meetings with the members of the Kiril i Metodiy Cultural Club of Bulgarians living in Switzerland were held in Geneva and Zurich. The meetings were very successful and the Vitosha Folklore Group sent by the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad contributed to the good mood of our compatriots. Olga Borisova, performer of Bulgarian folk songs, was welcomed with ovations.

Attendance on the part of our compatriots was very good in both Geneva and Zurich.

A number of club members suggested the organization of entertainment meetings and dances which would include both folk and modern music and old urban songs.

The Vitosha Folklore Group took part with great success in the Christmas celebrations of Bulgarian societies in the FRG, Austria and Sweden.

From Brussels, Belgium, by Dimitur Stefanov:

The annual traditional rally of Bulgarians in Belgium, once again dedicated to the liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke and to the poet Peyu Yavorov, the patron of the local society, was held for the fifth time in Brussels. Hundreds of our compatriots wearing the symbol of Bulgarian spring, the martenitsa, gathered in the large hall of the Volkswagen company. The guests included Bulgarian ambassador Stefan Todorov, consul Ivan Dimitrov, Nikola Indzhov, member of the Board of Trustees of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and editor in chief of RODOLYUBIE, and guests from the FRG, Denmark, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The ceremony was chaired with inspiration and patriotic enthusiasm by Mariya Khristova-Kleymans, well-known opera singer and public figure. A speech on the 3 March celebration was

delivered by Nikola Indzhov. Dimitur Danailov, director of the P. K. Yavorov House-Museum in Chirpan, spoke of the life and cause of the beloved poet, while Dimitur Vachev, actor at the Theater of the Word in Sofia, recited poems by Yavorov. Amateur performers from Svishtov, directed by Georgi Drambozov, who had been especially invited to attend the rally, also recited poetry by Yavorov. The guests were greatly impressed by the performance of cellist Anatoli Krustev, a teacher at the conservatory in Sofia, who was in Belgium, in accordance with the plan for cultural exchange with Bulgaria. One of the emphases of the holiday was International Woman's Day, celebrated on 8 March, on which spoke Maya Buyukliva, Bulgarian language teacher in the Flemish universities of Leuven and Ghent.

The words of Mariya Khristova-Kleymans to our compatriots are worth quoting:

"The first meeting of the Society of Bulgarian-speaking people in Belgium took place at the Ston Okers coffeeshop on 28 January 1978. The spontaneous decision was made to give the society the name of "Yavorov." Navart recited the poem "The Armenians," while Maya recited the poem "Calliope."... We, Bulgarian women married to Belgians, the members of our generation which grew up in socialist Bulgaria, who came out of the Pioneer choirs, youth amateur groups and circles and industrious and honorable Bulgarian families, we cannot turn our backs to our childhood and youth, to our roots, to our blood. Let me share with you the fact that we love Belgium, the country in which we live, our second homeland, warmly and sincerely, with no demagoguery, and that we shall never violate the trust and security granted us by this beautiful country. Our love of Bulgaria helps us to be good and honest Belgian citizens...."

The birthdays of our 80-year-old compatriots Nikola Dinev and Olimpi Todorov and the 90-year-old Dimitri Atanasov were celebrated during the ceremonies. They were awarded the Honor Badge "1,300 Years of Bulgaria," and other gifts, while the youngest--the children--presented them with flowers. Also celebrated was the marriage of Francoise, daughter of Tsonka Leonard to Philip Mortie.

At the end, the Prolet dancers, consisting of young Belgian men and women, presented an excellent program on the theme of St. George's Day.

Cocktails were offered to all the guests by the Bulgarian ambassador.

That morning a solemn religious service dedicated to the liberation of Bulgaria was held at the Bulgarian church in Brussels with the participation of Bishop Simeon from Budapest. The service was attended by guests from the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad.

From Damascus, Syria, by Ivanka Antonova:

Clubs of Bulgarian women married to Syrian citizens were created last year, first in Damascus followed by Tartus and Homs. They have more than 100 Bulgarian members and are engaged in lively cultural and educational activities, which involve not only the women but their husbands and children and many friends of Bulgaria.

The clubs offer Bulgarian language courses to children of mixed marriages. This way the children learn their mother's tongue better, regardless of the fact that they regularly attend Arab schools. Twice weekly they have 2-hour classes for reading and writing Bulgarian. They learn and sing Bulgarian poems and songs.

All clubs have rich libraries with Bulgarian works and subscriptions to many Bulgarian periodicals.

One of the most active is the Club of Bulgarian Women in Damascus, with chairman Rayna Mishkova.

Unforgettable Evening in West Berlin, By Georgi Uzunski, Pogled Correspondent, Special for RODOLYUBIE:

Here the usual procedure is the following: you check your overcoat, then the headwaiter asks you to choose a table and takes you to it. One evening, however, this impressive figure dressed in a black suit with a bow tie had nothing to do in the large hall. The Germans entering the Berliner Kindl Vestsele were politely stopped at the entrance hall with "I am sorry, sir, the Bulgarians have reserved the tables!" I was standing to the side and could hear their approving "Aha, good, very good!" before reemerging onto the brightly lit Hermanstrasse.

Yet it is an open secret that, particularly of late, a real campaign has been mounted against all kinds of foreigners, and the threatening "Raus!" (Out!) aimed at the Yankees and the numerous emigre and guest-worker groups can be seen all over the walls and fences. Despite this unambiguous situation, our compatriots rate this sympathetic "Good! Very good!" for here they include noted physicians, industrialists, merchants, singers and musicians, or else ordinary conscientious working people who were brought to this modern-day Babylon by the storms of historical upheavals decades ago. Regardless of all vicissitudes, they were and have remained Bulgarians.

That evening, more than 300 of our compatriots with their families had filled up the large hall of the Berliner Kindl Vestsele. As many of them said, they had been waiting for this moment for the past 6 months, ever since the "Dr Petur Beron" Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Society had been founded. Today it is a reality which, for the first time, rallied its members after the objectives and tasks of the society had been made clear and its bylaws had been drawn up. Actually, this statement is somewhat dry and bureaucratic but it represents the long aspiration of Bulgarians living in West Berlin to unite in order to preserve the freshness of the Bulgarian spirit in this noisy and restless multilingual sea.

"We need such a society," I was told later by Georgi Sergiev, its chairman. "Sometimes one Bulgarian will meet another only when one of us dies. Yet most of us have lived here for several decades. We have raised families. Our children, have not met other Bulgarian children and grow up isolated in a foreign environment. This cuts off the roots through which all of us have drawn on the juices of our native land. The fatherland may be far away but

it has not forgotten us, it is stretching its hand to us. This led to the idea of becoming organized--we who were raised by mother Bulgaria.... Through the joint efforts of the members of the society, the organization of a Bulgarian language course, a section for women and a circle for Bulgarian embroidery, it will become a means for refreshing the Bulgarian spirit."

Guests for the evening included Maksim Karadzhov, Bulgarian consul general in West Berlin, consul Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian trade representative Aleksandur Kasabov and Bulgarian artists working in the GDR, such as Mikhayl Mikhaylov, chamber music singer at the Halle Opera House, Yana Mikhaylova at the Brandenburg Opera House, Docent Virginiya Vasileva at the Hans Eisler Conservatory in Berlin and Roza Mikhaylova-Erbslo, who presented a program of opera and operetta arias and duets. This "international" musical part was followed by a purely Bulgarian one: the light music orchestra (again consisting of our compatriots) performed; there were dances and ... unforgettable old urban songs.

The ceremonious evening held by the Bulgarians in West Berlin lasted well into the night. What kept them in that hall was that desired and until then missing Bulgarian atmosphere. Perhaps the long ceremony may have become part of the success of the society wished to it by Maksim Karadzhov, its first honorary member.

New Newspaper for Bulgarians in Australia

We have received Issue No 1 of the newspaper RODNO SLOVO, an independent monthly for Bulgarians living in Australia. It is published by our patriotic compatriots in Melbourne.

The program article of the newspaper states that "... RODNO SLOVO is a newspaper for everyone--old and young, Bulgarian and English-speaking. In its various sections the readers will become acquainted with the beauties of the Bulgarian land and the history, culture and accomplishments of the Bulgarian people. They will acquire knowledge and draw spiritual pleasure from the treasures of Bulgarian culture." Elsewhere we read that "... the newspaper RODNO SLOVO inaugurates a new chapter in the cultural life of Bulgarians and Bulgarian-speaking people in Australia. This is the first time that a Bulgarian-language newspaper is being published in Australia not affiliated with a political or social organization but published privately and self-financed." These are lines which bear something of the spirit and behests of the first Bulgarian renaissance men Fotinov and Bogorov, Rakovski and Botev--who enriched the pages of the newspapers and periodicals they published with the most valuable expressions of the Bulgarian spirit!

The editors of RODOLYUBIE see in the newspaper RODNO SLOVO the beginning of a new contribution to the Bulgarian patriotic cause abroad and are confident that RODNO SLOVO will enjoy great moral and material support of our compatriots in Australia and, as their own newspaper, will promote the good name of Bulgarians abroad and encourage in everyone feelings of love and attachment for the homeland and pride in its successes and will remain a zealous defender of the Bulgarian spirit and a spokesman for the truth about Bulgaria, peace and progress.

We wish our colleagues of RODNO SLOVO good luck and success!

RODOLYUBIE

Committee for Bulgarians Abroad Announcement:

Children of our compatriots abroad will continue to be offered scholarships for the 1983/1984 school year so that they may continue their education in Bulgarian higher educational establishments.

The candidate students must have completed their secondary education with a grade not under good (4) based on the Bulgarian rating system. The following documents must be submitted:

1. Petition to the chairman of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad.
2. Biography of the candidate (in Bulgarian).
3. Birth certificate (copy) translated into Bulgarian and legalized.
4. Document certifying to completed secondary education (copy), translated into Bulgarian and legalized, indicating the system on the basis of which the knowledge of the candidate was rated. University graduates who would like to receive credits for some of their examinations which they should take in Bulgarian higher educational institutions must also submit an academic reference issued by the respective university, also translated into Bulgarian and legalized.
5. A candidate student individual form.
6. Medical certificate.
7. Five photographs, 6X4 centimeters.
8. Recommendation issued by a society or church community member.

The documents must mandatorily be sent through the embassy or consulate general of the Bulgarian People's Republic in the country. They must be received by the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad no later than 20 July 1983. Candidate student documents brought personally or sent as private letters will not be accepted. Priority will be given to candidates applying for the subjects of Bulgarian philology, philosophy, history, journalism and other humanities. The documents mandatorily must indicate the first and second choices. Subjects may not be changed once a candidate has been accepted.

The same stipulations will apply for specialization or graduate studies by sons and daughters of our compatriots, who have completed their higher training. In such cases a diploma for higher education, translated into Bulgarian and legalized, must be submitted.

Accepted students will be granted a scholarship and food in the student cafeteria at reduced prices and accommodations in a student hostel. The candidates must pay for their travel expenses.

The same conditions will apply for the acceptance of young men and women of Bulgarian origin for training as heads of Bulgarian folklore groups, at the 4-month School for Amateur Performances in Plovdiv (from 25 February to July or from 1 October to February).

Readers' Letters

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 6, 1983 p 2

[Text] Dear compatriots:

I left my dear homeland several months ago. I am sad and miss everyone very much. I have moved into a new house and a new city but nothing pleases me. I am lonely and I miss the gaiety I had in Bulgaria.

I thank all of you very much for the good and beautiful hospitality you showed me and for your attention and everything you are doing for us, Bulgarians living abroad. You well know and we proved to you that although we are so far away we love our dear homeland very much. Personally, I feel that I have only one fatherland which I always carry in my heart and do not forget even for a moment. Here everything is meaningless to me. I do not sing or laugh and wonder what to do. I am confused and my thoughts are scrambled. Please write me a long letter so I can read it for 2 days and 2 nights and that I can shout and cry endlessly. That is how greatly despairing and lonely I feel!

I am convinced that my nostalgia for the homeland and my relatives and friends will never disappear, for which reason I must make up my mind and return once and for all. That is why I would like you to explain to me how this could be arranged, how I can find an apartment and settle down, for I am not familiar with Bulgarian laws and do not know how to go about it.

Love and kisses, yours,

Zlatka Pavelich, (Queenbayun), Australia

From the editors:

Your warm and patriotic letter was read with much emotion by the chairman and all members of the management of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad and the entire RODOLYUBIE editorial staff. The more letters like this we receive from our compatriots, the more inspired and enthusiastic we become and the greater our feeling of responsibility in working for the Bulgarian spirit becomes, for our dear fatherland.

As to the specific questions you raise, we use this occasion to inform all of our readers of the following: any one of our compatriots who has decided to

return to Bulgaria and take up permanent residence in the country has the opportunity to buy an apartment or a lot for a cottage and to build a cottage; he has the right to open a foreign currency account in the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank and to bring property into the country free of customs duty, including furniture and a car; he has the right to receive a pension from the country in which he worked, and so on. More specific and practical explanations on such matters can be obtained from the embassies of the Bulgarian People's Republic in the respective countries.

I most warmly thank you for the periodical RODOLYUBIE, which I receive regularly. If possible, could you please send this periodical also to engineer Slavcho Manchev, who is always actively interested in its contents and reads it with great pleasure. Particularly interesting and worthy of admiration are articles such as the one you published in your Issue Nos 11 and 12 of 1982--"Navigator Alonso de Ojeda--A Bulgarian," by Iv. Dimitrov. The facts from the distant past you have dusted off deserve a great deal of attention and wide dissemination. Toward the end of 1982 the Otto Sanger Publishing House in Munich put out a small but significant work by Prof H. Kunstmann on similarities between Bulgarians and Bavarians in the medieval epic poem "Song of the Nibelungen." I gave its author addresses of some scientists in Bulgaria to whom he could send copies of his work.

Kiril Kharalampiev, Munich, FRG

From the editors:

We shall meet your request with great pleasure and send RODOLYUBIE to engineer Sl. Manchev. The editors will try to publish more articles such as the one you mention. We would also be pleased to receive a copy of the work by Prof H. Kunstmann.

Dear sirs:

Thank you for including in your magazine some wonderful Bulgarian cooking. I would be grateful if you include more national dishes every month. My mother, the former Donka Palasova of the Bulgarian State Opera, was not interested in cooking so I never learned any Bulgarian cuisine.

In one issue of your magazine you also had a photograph of two beautiful Bulgarian soldiers. Now, I would like to know what kind of soldiers they are--infantry, cavalry, etc.? It would be nice of you if you published another article on military uniforms in Bulgaria and their historical background. Basically, I think it would be of extremely great interest to read articles on Bulgarian gardening, embroidery, wine-making--items of information which can be made use of in our homes abroad.

Yours faithfully,

Miss D. R. Gerson, London, England

From the editor:

Dear Miss Gerson: It is very helpful and stimulating to receive letters like yours for which we are indebted to you. All your suggestions were carefully considered by the editors and journalists of RODOLYUBIE magazine and they are already at work to provide a variety of articles on Bulgarian cooking, wine-making, embroidery, military uniforms, etc. It is always a most pleasing obligation to come up to the expectations of our dear readers.

We kindly apologize since not all publications can be translated into English due to the fact that our countrymen do not live in English-speaking countries only.

RODOLYUBIE No 12--An Issue Based on Readers' Wishes

From the editors:

We recently received letters from our compatriots Iskra Schlang of Hamburg and Tanya Luksch of Vienna, who have sent us their poems expressing nostalgia for the homeland and on the subject of the Banner of Peace Children's Assembly. Their poetry will be published in the special Issue No 12 of RODOLYUBIE, which is being drafted by the editors based on the readers' wishes. The same issue will publish a large selection of the best poems by our compatriots, received by the editors by no later than 15 September 1983. Their publication will include a commentary by a noted Bulgarian literary critic and the authors of the three best poems will be awarded anthologies of Bulgarian poetry. We invite our readers to participate! Letters with works of poetry must be sent to the address of the editors and marked "for the issue based on readers' wishes."

Reports on Activities Abroad

Sofia RODOLYUBIE in Bulgarian No 6, 1983 pp 3-4

A club for Bulgarians in the city of Homs, Syria, was organized at the beginning of 1983 with the assistance of the Bulgarian Cultural Center in Damascus.

More than 150 Syrians, who have graduated from Bulgarian universities, live in Homs. The wives of many of them are Bulgarian. They are in constant and close touch with the homeland. There is no home with a Bulgarian-Syrian family in which the Bulgarian spirit is not felt or Bulgarian speech heard.

The newly founded club organized a Bulgarian language course held twice weekly. The children attending the course have learned with joy and excitement to read and write their first word--"Mama." The first action of the children attending the course was a solemn literary-musical program performed in honor of 8 March, International Women's Day.

The club has already collected its first books for its library of Bulgarian fiction and works by Bulgarian authors translated into Arabic. The library

also receives the periodicals RODOLYUBIE and NOVA BULGARIYA, which are regularly distributed among Bulgarians and Syrian citizens who studied in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Club in Homs is one more home for Bulgaria in the world and an indicator of the unabated flame of Bulgarian patriotism, as well as a home for Bulgarian-Syrian friendship.

By Dani Darvish, Bulgarian Language Teacher

The general annual meeting of the Society of Bulgarian Gardeners in Austria was held at the Bulgarian Cultural Club in Vienna. The members of the society heard a report on its activities in 1982 and the report of the auditing commission. Discussions were held on the reports and the 1983 budget was voted on. Deserving members of the society were honored with a solemn ritual. At the end, the Bulgarian Gardeners chose a new administrative council, auditing commission, conciliation court and area managers. After the meeting a countryman's meeting was held at the Rila Restaurant on the occasion of Trifon Zarezan patron day of the society.

By Kiril Filipov

The multilingual hustle and bustle in the hall of the Moscow Park Hotel in Stockholm was the background of our conversation with Platon Tabakov, chairman of the Otets Paisiy Bulgarian Cultural-Educational Society. Nevertheless it was an interesting and informal conversation. Naturally, it began with a discussion of the problems and prospects of the society.

"At the beginning, 5 or 6 years ago, we engaged in daily club activities," Tabakov enthusiastically began, "until the Bulgarians became accustomed to visiting us. In order to receive," he smiled, "you must first give. They came mostly to spend a pleasant hour or two, to amuse themselves, to remember holidays and songs with which they grew up. Our activities were not differentiated according to the interests of the individual social groups. Now we have such gatherings. For example, women meet separately to discuss problems related to the education of the children and to exchange news of events in their distant homeland. After the accountability meeting, which was held last March, all our activities were reorganized on a more serious basis. We discussed the question of membership dues and the publication of the quarterly newspaper OTETS PAISIY. We are particularly relying on the cooperation of the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad in terms of talks and film cassettes."

[Question] What preparations are you making for the rally on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Ilinden-Preobrazhensko uprising? And what about the other committee initiatives?

[Answer] Like the other societies, we have appointed an official delegation of nine people. The number of donors is steadily growing in the subscription for building a house for the committee. As usual, our children will spend their summer in a camp on the Black Sea and will send drawings for the "1,300 Years of Bulgaria" Foundation. Naturally, I am convinced that after the

rally the interest shown by our people in establishing contacts with the homeland will triple.

[Question] What are you doing for the study of the preservation by your club of the Bulgarian language, literature and culture?

[Answer] In addition to the mandatory 4 hours weekly, our children attending the school for ethnic groups are given readers and children's books sent by the Committee for Bulgarians Abroad. The club library is steadily being enriched by a great variety of publications--historical and fiction, albums and cookbooks. We hope that in the future as well the committee will send to us performers such as, for example, the Vitosha Folklore Group, and will help to promote patriotic meetings with Bulgarian professional ensembles visiting Sweden, be it a chamber music orchestra, a children's choir, or a puppet theater, as well as meetings with such noted writers as Yordan Radichkov, who is well-known to the Swedish public.

[Question] As director of the Sofia Resort Travel Agency, what do you expect of the Bulgarian summer?

[Answer] I expect that tourists from Sweden will double or triple," laughed this Bulgarian businessman boyishly. "Of late Bulgaria has become a 'hit' for the Swedes. During the past 2-3 years alone 8-10,000 people have visited Bulgaria every year. I hope that this year their number will increase to 15,000.

[Question] What attracts you the most and what would be the greatest wish of your customers who have spent their leave in our country?

[Answer] This will not be a surprise. They are most pleased by the great natural beauty and the communicative and warm people they meet at the beach, along the streets and in the stores. Most of their wishes deal with services. However, naturally their overall impression is good and they are becoming true friends of Bulgaria. I would like to believe that some of them will attend meetings of our club so that they may hear and see once again a "small Bulgarian saga" with its southern colors and rhythms.

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